

By Inea Bushnaq

THERE is a Bedouin folktale about a moth, an owl, a swallow and a frog who lived together. One evening, a traveller rode up to the door of their tent and they welcomed him as their guest, setting food before him and offering shelter for the night. But when the moon set and the darkness was black as being blind, a robber crept up to the guest's fine riding camel, slashed through the tethers and made off with her. The animals were awakened by the cries of their guest and rushed in every direction to try and trace the lost animal. The owl flitted over some nearby ruins, the swallow winged his way towards the grazing grounds and the frog investigated the bottom of the closest well. But it was no use. The camel was gone. Unable to endure the disgrace of failing to protect the guest in her tent, the moth flung herself into the fire. The memory of that shame still drives her descendants to do the same. Any night you may see them flying into an open flame.

Another story tells of the Bedouins, in search of new pasture for their herds, who sent out a raven, a partridge and a dove to scout the surrounding terrain. In no time at all the raven was back, saying that there was not a blade of grass to be seen. The partridge and the dove had a different story to tell. According to them, a mere two days' march away was fresh grass, soft as a lady's hair. Well, the Bedouins decided to move towards the grazing and found that the raven had told

them nothing but a lie, for there stretched the grass before them. To punish him for his falsehood, they painted the raven black as deceit. As for the dove, they stained her feet a pretty pink with henna dye, just like a young bride, and the eyes of the partridge they brightened with a black line of kohl. If you doubt this, you may check, for the birds carry those marks to this day.

Two unimportant tales to pass an idle moment around the evening thornbush fire; and yet they hold clues to what makes possible a unique way of life in the austere setting of the desert. Where the distance between one water hole and the next means days of travel, hospitality is no mere politeness but a matter of life and death. Guest-friendship, therefore, assumes a mystic significance. Even an enemy, once he has tasted salt at a man's hearth, will receive his host's protection. The moth's reaction in the story may seem extreme, but it is in keeping with a long-lived tradition.

Similarly, when constant travel reduces possessions to absolute essentials and the whole community is moveable, packed and ready to go at a moment's notice, then as much as possible has to be portable. It is no coincidence that the richest artistic legacy of the Arab desert culture is its recited poetry, dating back to pre-Islamic times. Where there is no baggage space for written contracts, no courthouse buildings with archive vaults, a man's word has to be binding as it stands. No wonder that the treacherous raven was painted black.

Honour, good name

While researching material for the manuscript of Arab Folktales, I was struck again and again by how much information the simplest story carried about the people who told it. For example, I found myself having to explain to my American editor why it was not horrendous that the father in a Bedouin tale had killed his own son when he discovered that the youth had behaved dishonorably

Folktales... the interface of myth and reality

towards the neighbour who had sheltered him. To an outsider, the punishment may appear disproportionate; yet, when one has read a number of these folk stories, a clear picture emerges. Where material trappings are minimal and death can mow down the richest herd after a rainless spell, one of the few possessions of value a man can hold and call his own is his honour and his good name.

There is a legendary story on this theme from the sixth century, before Mohammad became the Messenger of God, about the wandering poet-king Imru' al-Qays, who sought refuge in the fortress of Samawal and left his precious armour in his keeping. After Imru' al-Qays had been killed, his enemy besieged Samawal's castle, asking for the hero's arms. But Samawal refused to betray his trust. He did not waver, even when his son was taken hostage and threatened with death. He composed a poem which ends: "I have kept my pledge and the armour of the dead Kindite. Though other men may break their promises, my word is true." And with his own eyes, he saw his son killed before the fortress wall. Every Arab high school boy can recite the first couplet of Imru' al-Qays' *mu'allaqa* poem, but even the illiterate know about Samawal's loyalty, which has become proverbial. What Samawal did has made his name immortal.

The importance accorded such intangible assets as "honour" and "fame" pervades even the love stories of the desert. Most familiar European fairy tales and happily ever after, with the prince marrying the princess or the deserving heroine. Arab peasant folktales, too, will close with a wedding and sometimes a little rhyme, like:

They lived on in happiness and great joy

They had many children, both girls and boys

Then Death took them who everything destroys.

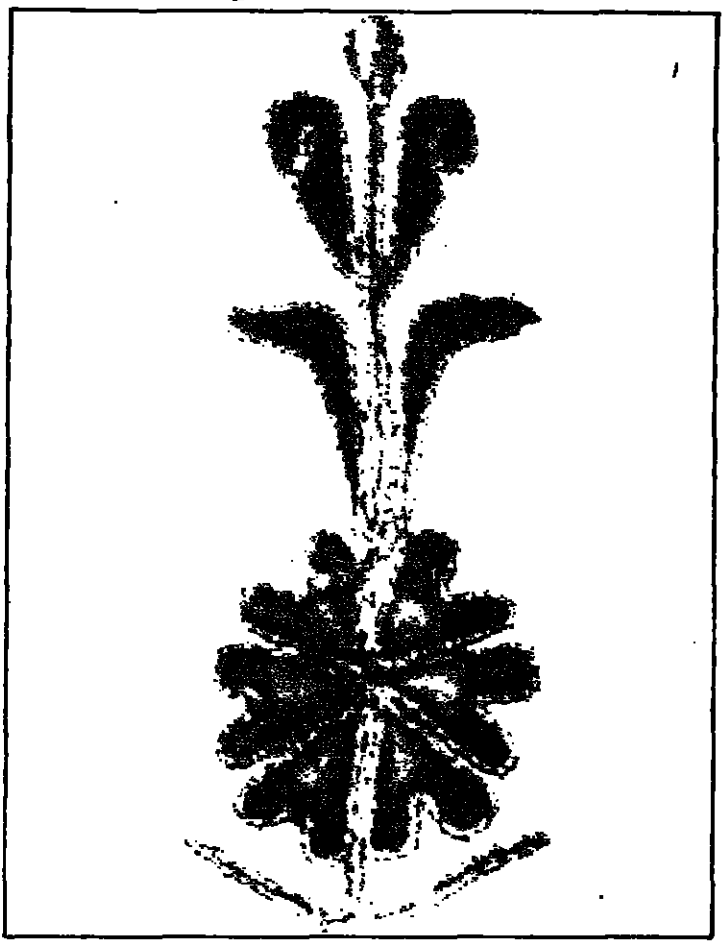
Arab hospitality

There are great love stories among the Bedouin tales and there is a sound of wedding drums and celebration when the lovers are finally united, but that is not the grandest moment. Very often the woman the hero sees once and falls sick with love for is already betrothed. As likely as not, she was promised at birth to her first cousin on her father's side, which is the custom.

One of the grand moments in the stories is when the cousin, placing the happiness of the lovers above his own, foregoes his right to the girl. Aah! what a generous thing to do. Since generosity is one of the qualities

"Where material trappings are minimal and death can mow down the richest herd after a rainless spell, one of the few possessions of value a man can hold and call his own is his honour and his good name."

much admired by Arabs, the cousin's gesture rather than the lovers' wedding becomes the dramatic climax. Usually the



"Where the distance between one water hole and the next means days of travel, hospitality is no mere politeness but a matter of life and death."

cousin is then rewarded with gifts of fine armour and full-blooded horses — and maybe the hero's sister as a wife — and the story ends with a note of applause in a sentence like "So it is when men are noble!" or "Only he who is narrow-hearted and ungenerous is the enemy of God and man!"

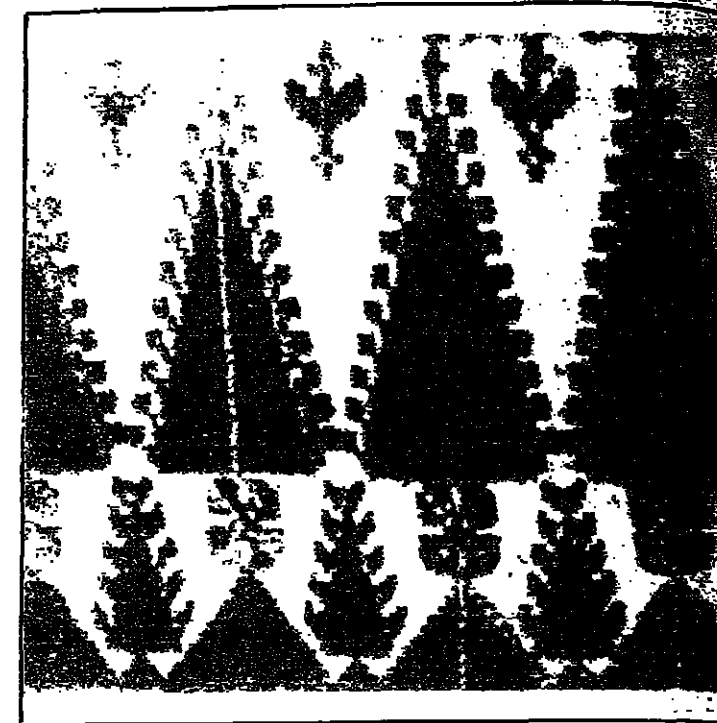
The byword for generosity is the legendary Hatim at-Tay. When his mother was a bride, she heard a voice in her dream offering her a choice: To become the mother of ten sons as brave as eagles or the mother of Hatim, who would surpass all men in generosity of heart and open-handedness. She chose Hatim.

Such is the legend. But legends are the creations of people, fashioned in their own image — as they would like themselves to be, and thus they become a standard to live up to; their function fulfilled when the line between mythology and history begins to blur. Consider the following anecdote, for example. In his book *Arabian Sands*, Wilfred Thesiger, who explored the Rub'

al-Khali or Empty Quarter of the Arabian Peninsula in the late 1940s, describes the arrival at his camp one day of a bedraggled old man with a limp. Everyone in the camp crowded around the old beggar, offering him welcome, making him comfortable and greeting him with great warmth. Wondering why such a man should receive so much attention, Thesiger asked about him and was told that he belonged to such and such a tribe and was famous. What was he famous for? His generosity. He had been a rich man, but for every guest who came to his tent he had killed a camel until he had nothing left. "By God, he is generous!" exclaimed the Bedouin informant, and Thesiger comments, "I could hear the envy in his voice."

They say that after Hatim at-Tay's death a group of rival tribesmen, jealous of his renown, happened to camp near his grave. Where was the generous one now, they sneered. It turned out that he was not far, because during the night he appeared to one of the men in a dream, killing the man's camel and inviting him to feast on the meat. Next morning, the man discovered that his camel had somehow cut itself during the night and was dead. So the tribesmen built a fire and cooked the camel's flesh and feasted lavishly. Later, on resuming their journey, they met Hatim at-Tay's son on their way. He was leading a black camel which he said his father had instructed him to offer to the tribesman travelling without a camel. Though his father was dead, he had seen him in a dream the night before.

Again, an echo of the legend is to be found within traceable memory, this time in some sculpted stones in Jordan. A German orientalist on an expedition to Petra in 1898 reported being shown a stone marker south of Qatranah at Mawda' as-Sahn or Place of the Platter, a spot in Jordan where "a hundred years ago," according to his guide, a Bedouin sheikh famous for his hospitality had entertained the caravans of pilgrims on their way to Mecca. Carved into the ground were rough symbols representing the sheikh's lance, his pair of pistols, and the large round *mansaf* or metal tray on which he would have served meat heaped on layers of bread or rice. In the same report was drawing of the grave of another Bedouin, south of Madaba. Three crudely sculptured panels record the hospitality of the deceased. They show a typical beaked coffee pot next to a tray on which are three coffee cups, a wooden mortar and pestle with which coffee would be pounded, and a curious ladle used for roasting coffee beans. How close in spirit to Hatim at-Tay to want to be remembered



not as a warrior or as a hero but as a host.

Clues, clues

Like the silk embroidery threads that twist across the plain homespun of traditional peasant *thobes*, or dresses, the folk stories are very much entwined in everyday life, even if they dwell on the more dramatic, the highly coloured events and moments. Ideal and timeless, they nevertheless pass on the clues to what is admired, what deplored, the tellers and those who listened to them. In them are contained the main traditions and, thus, the cultural identity of a people.

Though a far cry from Hatim at-Tay and other folk heroes, the fact remains that to this day in Jordan and elsewhere in the Arab World one cannot pass a humble goatherd sitting in the mouth of the cave where he lives or a group of women bent over their work at the edge of a field without being invited to share a cup of coffee or a glass of tea. And still there are men living who count with pleasure the number of guests they have feasted by the herds they have slaughtered and offered up on the altar of hospitality. Such is the hold of the ancient Arab ideal that, for a man who is noble, his wealth is measured not by what he keeps for himself but rather by what he gives away.

The times are changing at a breathtaking pace, but wherever the old storytellers are giving way to the new entertainers, in books or on the radio and now television, the fear of losing the old tales eventually prompts people to copy them down and preserve them. They are recognised as a precious heritage. In Jordan, interest in folklore has been growing as the old ways slip into history to be replaced by modern methods and techniques. For almost 15 years, the Jordan Department of Culture and Arts has been publishing a folklore quarterly, *Al-Funoon ash-Sha'baya*, which gathers within its pages the texts of folk songs, the prescriptions used in folk medicine, information on food,

magic, custom and ceremonies, as well as folk stories. The Folklore Museum, beneath the Roman amphitheatre in Amman, houses an excellent collection of antique tools and utensils; and beautifully displayed, in a second museum nearby, is an exhibition of folk costumes in all their rich variety of colour and stitching.

At present, it seems unthinkable that there might be a day when the ideals of behaviour inherited from the heroic age of desert living are forgotten or discarded as out of date. After all, they are the hallmark of Arab identity. Still, it seems just as well to have reminders of the old ways in the form of stories like this one:

A prince, touring his quarter to see how his people were faring, found a woman weeping and asked her why she wept. "My only son has died," she said, "he kept me in comfort, poor widow that I am. How shall I live now?" The prince consoled her with the promise of a mule. If she rented it out, it would work for her and keep her as comfortably as she had been before. Proceeding on his way, the prince met another mother weeping over the grave of her son. When he asked her about him, she said that he used to fill his tent with guests and that the noblest men would gather at his feasts. For her, the prince could find no consoling words.

"Weep on. O mother of a generous and hospitable son," he told her, "there is no comfort for so great a loss. How can we replace a noble man!" — Jordan magazine.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
14:30 Koran
14:55 Programme review
14:55 Round-up of Seoul Olympic Games
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Programme on world news
18:30 Religious programme
18:50 Programme on Environment
19:25 Agricultural programme
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:35 Round-up of Seoul Olympic Games
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Seoul Olympic Games (contd.)

PROGRAMME TWO
17:50 Champs Elysees
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Carol Burner Show
21:10 Floodlight
22:00 News in English
22:30 Hunter
23:10 Code Name Kyril

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 9560 KHz. SW
Tel: 77111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
11:00 Just a Minute
12:00 News Summary
12:45 30-Minute Theatre
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session Cont'd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:15 Instrumentals
14:30 30 Minute Theatre
15:00 News Summary
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Pop Talk
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
18:30 Music
19:00 News Desk

19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Cont'd.
22:00 News Summary
22:05 Evening Show Continued
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show Continued
24:00 Close Down

WORLDNET

(At the American Cultural Centre)

09:00 America Today
12:00 Newsline
13:00 Firing Line
13:30 It's Your Business
14:00 America Today (Repeat)
15:00 The Health Century
15:30 Writer's Workshop
16:00 Worldnet Dialogue: A Middle East Agenda for the next Administration
16:45 Business Report
17:00 Worldnet Special
18:00 Firing Line
18:30 Modern Maturity

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Without Strings
07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News
08:00 World News 08:30 New Ideas
08:40 Book Choice 08:45 The World Today
09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Celluloid Rock
10:00 World News 10:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
10:30 Language Extra 10:45 Network U.K.
11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections
11:15 Tech Talk 11:30 New Music
12:00 World News 12:09 British Press Review
12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News followed by Sport
12:45 Sportsworld 13:00 News Summary followed by Discovery 13:30 Sports International 14:00 World News
14:09 News About Britain 14:15 Waveguide 14:25 Book Choice 14:30 Citizens 15:00 Radio Newsdesk 15:15 Multitrack 1: Top 20 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:09 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Sports World 16:45 Recording of the Week
17:00 Outlook, opening with 5-minute News 18:00 Radio Newsdesk 18:15 A Jolly Good Show 19:00 World News
19:09 News About Britain 19:15 Outlook 19:45 The World Today 20:00 World News 20:09 Commentary 20:15 Citizens 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 Development '88

22:00 Outlook, opening with News Summary 22:30 Sport Market Report
22:45 Sportsworld 23:00 World News
23:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
23:30 Meridian 24:00 News Summary
24:09 Newsdesk 24:30 Sports Roundup
00:15 Just Plain Madness 00:30 Every Poem an Epiphany 01:00 World News
01:09 The World Today 01:25 Book Choice 01:30 Financial News 01:40 Reflections 01:45 Sports Roundup
02:00 World News 02:09 Commentary
02:15 From the Fronts

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 Hz

07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline
08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News
10:10 Newsline 10:30 Music
10:40 News 11:00 Newsline 11:30 Music
11:40 News 12:00 Newsline 12:30 Music
12:40 News 13:00 Newsline 13:30 Music
13:40 News 14:00 Newsline 14:30 Music
14:40 News 15:00 Newsline 15:30 Music
15:40 News 16:00 Newsline 16:30 Music
16:40 News 17:00 Newsline 17:30 Music
17:40 News 18:00 Newsline 18:30 Music
18:40 News 19:00 Newsline 19:30 Music
19:40 News 20:00 Newsline 20:30 Music
20:40 News 21:00 Newsline 21:30 Music
21:40 News 22:00 Newsline 22:30 Music
22:40 News 23:00 Newsline 23:30 Music
23:40 News 24:00 Newsline 24:30 Music
24:40 News 25:00 Newsline 25:30 Music
25:40 News 26:00 Newsline 26:30 Music
26:40 News 27:00 Newsline 27:30 Music
27:40 News 28:00 Newsline 28:30 Music
28:40 News 29:00 Newsline 29:30 Music
29:40 News 30:00 Newsline 30:30 Music
30:40 News 31:00 Newsline 31:30 Music
31:40 News 32:00 Newsline 32:30 Music
32:40 News 33:00 Newsline 33:30 Music
33:40 News 34:00 Newsline 34:30 Music
34:40 News 35:00 Newsline 35:30 Music
35:40 News 36:00 Newsline 36:30 Music
36:40 News 37:00 Newsline 37:30 Music
37:40 News 38:00 Newsline 38:30 Music
38:40 News 39:00 Newsline 39:30 Music
39:40 News 40:00 Newsline 40:30 Music
40:40 News 41:00 Newsline 41:30 Music
41:40 News 42:00 Newsline 42:30 Music
42:40 News 43:00 Newsline 43:30 Music
43:40 News 44:00 Newsline 44:30 Music
44:40 News 45:00 Newsline 45:30 Music
45:40 News 46:00 Newsline 46:30 Music
46:40 News 47:00 Newsline 47:30 Music
47:40 News 48:00 Newsline 48:30 Music
48:40 News 49:00 Newsline 49:30 Music
49:40 News 50:00 Newsline 50:30 Music
50:40 News 51:00 Newsline 51:30 Music
51:40 News 52:00 Newsline 52:30 Music
52:40 News 53:00 Newsline 53:30 Music
53:40 News 54:00 Newsline 54:30 Music
54:40 News 55:00 Newsline 55:30 Music
55:40 News 56:00 Newsline 56:30 Music
56:40 News 57:00 Newsline 57:30 Music
57:40 News 58:00 Newsline 58:30 Music
58:40 News 59:00 Newsline 59:30 Music
59:40 News 60:00 Newsline 60:30 Music
60:40 News 61:00 Newsline 61:30 Music
61:40 News 62:00 Newsline 62:30 Music
62:40 News 63:00 Newsline 63:30 Music
63:40 News 64:00 Newsline 64:30 Music
64:40 News 65:00 Newsline 65:30 Music
65:40 News 66:00 Newsline 66:30 Music
66:40 News 67:00 Newsline 67:30 Music
67:40 News 68:00 Newsline 68:30 Music
68:40 News 69:00 Newsline 69:30 Music
69:40 News 70:00 Newsline 70:30 Music
70:40 News 71:00 Newsline 71:30 Music
71:40 News 72:00 Newsline 72:30 Music
72:40 News 73:00 Newsline 73:30 Music
73:40 News 74:00 Newsline 74:30 Music
74:40 News 75:00 Newsline 75:30 Music
75:40 News 76:00 Newsline 76:30 Music
76:40 News 77:00 Newsline 77:30 Music
77:40 News 78:00 Newsline 78:30 Music
78:40 News 79:00 Newsline 79:30 Music
79:40 News 80:00 Newsline 80:30 Music
80:40 News 81:00 Newsline 81:30 Music
81:40 News 82:00 Newsline 82:30 Music
82:40 News 83:00 Newsline 83:30 Music
83:40 News 84:00 Newsline 84:30 Music
84:40 News 85:00 Newsline 85:30 Music
85:40 News 86:00 Newsline 86:30 Music
86:40 News 87:00 Newsline 87:30 Music
87:40 News 88:00 Newsline 88:30 Music
88:40 News 89:00 Newsline 89:30 Music
89:40 News 90:00 Newsline 90:30 Music
90:40 News 91:00 Newsline 91:30 Music
91:40 News 92:00 Newsline 92:30 Music
92:40 News 93:00 Newsline 93:30 Music
93:40 News 94:00 Newsline 94:30 Music
94:40 News 95:00 Newsline 95:30 Music
95:40 News 96:00 Newsline 96:30 Music
96:40 News 97:00 Newsline 97:30 Music
97:40 News 98:00 Newsline 98:30 Music
98:40 News 99:00 Newsline 99:30 Music
99:40 News 100:00 Newsline 100:30 Music
100:40 News 101:00 Newsline 101:30 Music
101:40 News 102:00 Newsline 102:30 Music
102:40 News 103:00 Newsline 103:30 Music
103:40 News 104:00 Newsline 104:30 Music
104:40 News 105:00 Newsline 105:30 Music
105:40 News 106:00 Newsline 106:30 Music
106:40 News 107:00 Newsline 107:30 Music
107:40 News 108:00 Newsline 108:30 Music
108:40 News 109:00 Newsline 109:30 Music
109:40 News 110:00 Newsline 110:30 Music
110:40 News 111:00 Newsline 111:30 Music
111:40 News 112:00 Newsline 112:30 Music
112:40 News 113:00 Newsline 113:30 Music
113:40 News 114:00 Newsline 114:30 Music
114:40 News 115:00 Newsline 115:30 Music
115:40 News 116:00 Newsline 116:30 Music
116:40 News 117:00 Newsline 117:30 Music
117:40 News 118:00 Newsline 118:30 Music
118:40 News 119:00 Newsline 119:30 Music
119:40 News 120:00 Newsline 120:30 Music
120:40 News 121:00 Newsline 121:30 Music
121:40 News 122:00 Newsline 122:30 Music
122:40 News 123:00 Newsline 123:30 Music
123:40 News 124:00 Newsline 124:30 Music
124:40 News 125:00 Newsline 125:30 Music
125:40 News 126:00 Newsline 126:30 Music
126:40 News 127:00 Newsline 127:30 Music
127:40 News 128:00 Newsline 128:30 Music
128:40 News 129:00 Newsline 129:30 Music
129:40 News 130:00 Newsline 130:30 Music
130:40 News 131:00 Newsline 131:30 Music
131:40 News 132:00 Newsline 132:30 Music
132:40 News 133:00 Newsline 133:30 Music
133:40 News 134:00 Newsline 134:30 Music
134:40 News 135:00 Newsline 135:30 Music
135:40 News 136:00 Newsline 136:30 Music
136:40 News 137:00 Newsline 137:30 Music
137:40 News 138:00 Newsline 138:30 Music
138:40 News 139:00 Newsline 139:30 Music
139:40 News 140:00 Newsline 140:30 Music
140:40 News 141:00 Newsline 141:30 Music
141:40 News 142:00 Newsline 142:30 Music
142:40 News 143:00 Newsline 143:30 Music
143:40 News 144:00 Newsline 144:30 Music
144:40 News 145:00 Newsline 145:30 Music
145:40 News 146:00 Newsline 146:30 Music
146:40 News 147:00 Newsline 147:30 Music
147:40 News 148:00 Newsline 148:30 Music
148:40 News 149:00 Newsline 149:30 Music
149:40 News 150:00 Newsline 150:30 Music
150:40 News 151:00 Newsline 151:30 Music
151:40 News 152:00 Newsline 152:30 Music
152:40 News 153:00 Newsline 153:30 Music
153:40 News 154:00 Newsline 154:30 Music
154:40 News 155:00 Newsline 155:30 Music
155:40 News 156:00 Newsline 156:30 Music
156:40 News 157:00 Newsline 157:30 Music
157:40 News 158:00 Newsline 158:30 Music
158:40 News 159:00 Newsline 159:30 Music
159:40 News 160:00 Newsline 160:30 Music
160:40 News 161:00 Newsline 161:30 Music
161:40 News 162:00 Newsline 162:30 Music
162:40 News 163:00 Newsline 163:30 Music
163:40 News 164:00 Newsline 164:30 Music
164:40 News 165:00 Newsline 165:30 Music
165:40 News 166:00 Newsline 166:30 Music
166:40 News 167:00 Newsline 167:30 Music
167:40 News 168:00 Newsline 168:30 Music
168:40 News 169:00 Newsline 169:30 Music
169:40 News 170:00 Newsline 170:30 Music
170:40 News 171:00 Newsline 171:30 Music
171:40 News 172:00 Newsline 172:30 Music
172:40 News 173:00 Newsline 173:30 Music
173:40 News 174:00 Newsline 174:30 Music
174:40 News 175:00 Newsline 175:30 Music
175:40 News 176:00 Newsline 176:30 Music
176:40 News 177:00 Newsline 177:30 Music
177:40 News 178:00 Newsline 178:30 Music
178:40 News 179:00 Newsline 179:30 Music
179:40 News 180:00 Newsline 180:30 Music
180:40 News 181:00 Newsline 181:30 Music
181:40 News 182:00 Newsline 182:30 Music
182:40 News 183:00 Newsline 183:30 Music
183:40 News 184:00 Newsline 184:30 Music
184:40 News 185:00 Newsline 185:30 Music
185:40 News 186:00 Newsline 186:30 Music
186:40 News 187:00 Newsline 187:30 Music
187:40 News 188:00 Newsline 188:30 Music
188:40 News 189:00 Newsline 189:30 Music
189:40 News 190:00 Newsline 190:30 Music
190:40 News 191:00 Newsline 191:30 Music
191:40 News 192:00 Newsline 192:30 Music
192:40 News 193:00 Newsline 193:30 Music
193:40 News 194:00 Newsline 194:30 Music
194:40 News 195:00 Newsline 195:30 Music
195:40 News 196:00 Newsline 196:30 Music
196:40 News 197:00 Newsline 197:30 Music
197:40 News 198:00 Newsline 198:30 Music
198:40 News 199:00 Newsline 199:30 Music
199:40 News 200:00 Newsline 200:30 Music
200:40 News 201:00 Newsline 201:30 Music
201:40 News 202:00 Newsline 202:30 Music
202:40 News 203:00 Newsline 203:30 Music
203:40 News 204:00 Newsline 204:30 Music
204:40 News 205:00 Newsline 205:30 Music
205:40 News 206:00 Newsline 206:30 Music
206:40 News 207:00 Newsline 207:30 Music
207:40 News 208:00 Newsline 208:30 Music
208:40 News 209:00 Newsline 209:30 Music
209:40 News 210:00 Newsline 210:30 Music
210:40 News 211:00 Newsline 211:30 Music
211:40 News 212:00 Newsline 212:30 Music
212:40 News 213:00 Newsline 213:30 Music
213:40 News 214:00 Newsline 214:30 Music
214:40 News 215:00 Newsline 215:30 Music
215:40 News 216:00 Newsline 216:30 Music
216:40 News 217:00 Newsline 217:30 Music
217:40 News 218:00 Newsline 218:30 Music
218:40 News 219:00 Newsline 219:30 Music
219:40 News 220:00 Newsline 220:30 Music
220:40 News 221:00 Newsline 221:30 Music
221:40 News 222:00 Newsline 222:30 Music
222:40 News 223:00 Newsline 223:30 Music
223:40 News 224:00 Newsline 224:30 Music
224:40 News 225:00 Newsline 225:30 Music
225:40 News 226:00 Newsline 226:30 Music
226:40 News 227:00 Newsline 227:30 Music
227:40 News 228:00 Newsline 228:30 Music
228:40 News 229:00 News

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

Editorial Director:
RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:
RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:
RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Lebanon — a temporary split?

THE failure of the Lebanese parliament to elect a new president prior to the end of the term of President Amin Gemayel September 24 has brought Lebanon, the whole of Lebanon, into yet another abyss.

The string of crises which erupted some fourteen years ago in Lebanon does not seem to end in spite of its high cost in human and material terms. The latest paralysis in the Lebanese political structure gave birth to two "governments" competing for acceptance, recognition and legitimacy, both locally and internationally.

Some observers view this most recent setback as an additional degeneration that could herald a de facto partition of Lebanon. This pessimistic projection may not be borne out by developments in Lebanon, as negative and as serious as they are.

To begin with, both rival governments of Prime Minister Salim Hoss and General Michel Aoun, who was also appointed as prime minister by ex-President Gemayel literally minutes before the end of his six-year term of office, view themselves as temporary and transitory, with the sole purpose of acting as caretaker governments until true legitimacy is restored to Lebanon upon the election of a new president.

Moreover, both Hoss and Aoun regard themselves as the governments of the whole of Lebanon, thus repudiating the thesis that the existing political phase in Beirut is a prelude to a de jure partition of Lebanon. Both "governments" are engaged in contacts with major powers internationally and regionally, including Syria, which enjoys a special role in Lebanon.

Under these circumstances, the energies of both "governments" must converge on the election of a new president in the shortest possible time, as the only viable and permanent guarantee against the division of Lebanon by petty sectarian and special interests.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

TWO of the local Arabic dailies Monday commented on the government's decision to write off bills due for payment by municipalities, describing it as a constructive step to promote the work of municipalities. The decision means that the government realises the heavy burdens shouldered by the local councils and strives to help them carry out their duties. Al Rai's daily said in its editorial. But it said this decision should prompt all citizens to pay their dues to the municipal councils and cooperate with them in a manner that would ensure the continuation of such services. The decision also means that the local councils can now benefit from government assistance for two years, which serves as a breathing space, enabling them to reorganise their work and resume full services at the best possible level, the paper added. The newspaper concluded by saying: "The government decision came at a time when the councils were in utmost need of financial help, thus reflecting a genuine keenness by the Kingdom's leadership in helping local councils."

For its part Al Dustour daily said that writing off some JD 13 million due for payment by municipalities for land appropriation and water bills, has removed a heavy burden from the local councils. This step will no doubt give these councils a new impetus and a new opportunity to carry out projects and fulfil their mission, the paper noted. It described this step as positive and reflecting His Majesty King Hussein's keenness on caring for his people.

Al Shabab daily referred to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to the Jordan University of Science and Technology Sunday and his speech in which he advocated proper planning for all projects. The paper backed the Prince's idea of offering students a chance to move to their own environment and offer services to their local community. Prince Hassan's call for the employment of conscripts and other young men and women in various social and economic services is bound to gain the youth considerable experience in life, enabling them to adapt to future needs, the paper concluded.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Yes for a Palestinian state

A GUEST columnist for Al Dustour Arabic daily calls on the Palestinians to be realistic and accept the idea of recognising Israel in return for an independent Palestinian state. Nimer Serhan says in his article: "I do not speak on behalf of all the Palestinians but as a single individual in a future Palestinian state for which we are paying in blood and sufferings. In return for an independent state in Palestine... I say... we ought to recognise Israel; and had I been a member of the Palestine National Council which is to convene shortly I would strongly advocate my views." Serhan adds. The writer expresses the view that the establishment of an independent Palestinian state can never come about under the present circumstances without recognising Israel. "I would say to those who demand a liberation of Palestine from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean, that they represent our people's conscience and strategy; but we will suffice ourselves for now with a Palestinian state given us under the U.N. partition resolution, even with just setting up a state in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem," Serhan points out. Let us take a lesson for Saladdin who fought the Crusaders, says the writer, and let us accept what is possible at the present. Should we refuse this form of state, he says, we are bound to regret our action as we did when we refused the 1947 partition resolution. Therefore the writer concludes let us be realistic and benefit from the intifada in the occupied Arab lands to set up our independent state.

They kill prisoners too

Editor's Note: The Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC) in Jerusalem has been publishing an "uprising update," which aims to clarify the existing human rights situation as it develops in the occupied territories, as the uprising entered its ninth month. The information bulletin is distributed in cooperation with the Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights, whose international office is in Chicago. These updates are being published in the Jordan Times as they are received. Included in these information bulletins are lists of those killed during the uprising, as confirmed by the International Committee of the Red Cross, lists of detainees, and updated human rights reports as they develop. While some sources and background material is publicly available, most of the information comes from first hand reports, fieldworker visits to hospitals, refugee camps, towns and villages, and from working relationships between the PHRIC and other institutions in the occupied territories. The material is collected and verified in Jerusalem and sent to Chicago, where the updates are produced and distributed internationally.

DEATHS IN PRISON: Five people died in prison between Aug. 11 and 21. Two were shot in Ansar 3; the Israelis claimed two more as suicides; and the question of custody in the fifth case is unclear.

Reports on the Aug. 16 Ansar 3 killings have remained confused. Asad Jabri Shawwa, 25, from Sheja'iya and Ibrahim a-Sumoudi, 27, from Yamoun were shot, at least one of them at very close range. Attorneys were prohibited from visiting the camp Aug. 17 and have had visits and conversations strictly supervised and censored since. Soldiers who spoke informally with attorneys Aug. 17 said that the deaths occurred in Section B, which contains both Gaza and West Bank prisoners, and that the person who shot at least one of the two men was standing very close to David Tsemach, the commander of the prison. They said that the prisoners did not attack the soldiers but at the end of the ICRC visit had begun shouting about the deaths in Or Yehuda and about conditions in Ansar. With-in five minutes two men had been killed and another seriously wounded and many were overcome with tear gas. The soldiers said that a-Sumoudi had been killed by tear gas but according to his family he was shot.

According to other reports conflict erupted over the question of the prisoners working on the camp. Tsemach, with another two officers, Ratz and Elon, plus 15 soldiers, opened fire on the prisoners. According to this source 19 were injured; 26 suffered burns from tear gas; and 630 were affected by tear gas. Prisoners in Section B were on hunger strike Aug. 16 and 17; prisoners in another section have been on intermittent hunger strike since the beginning of August in support of their refusal to build the winter prison and in protest against general conditions in the prison. According to the soldiers, prisoners in Section B were also refusing to come out of their tents either for the counts or for other purposes.

This is not the first time that Tsemach is personally accused of brutality against prisoners. On July 28, for example, Tsemach, accompanied by a large number of soldiers, raided Section D; the soldiers threw tear gas canisters and beat prisoners. According to attorney's reports, Tsemach bru-

tally beat three prisoners who were then placed in solitary confinement for four days. The screams and moans of these men were heard all over the prison for the next three days.

The killings occurred two days after the High Court decided that judges should visit the prison to investigate complaints about conditions. No date had been set for the visit. The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights was scheduled to visit on Aug. 17; they were unable to get in.

The family of Nidal Jamil Mustafa Bedah, 20, from Beit Hanina, heard of his Aug. 16 death in Moscoviya on the radio. The Israelis claimed he had committed suicide in prison, hanging himself with a sheet. According to his wife the radio announcer mispronounced the name; she was convinced it was not her husband. Bedah had been arrested less than a week before, at 11:30 p.m. Aug. 9 police and borderguards came to the house in the course of arresting 20-30 young men from the neighbourhood. They asked if there were any men in the house. None of the men was home. The police then left a paper summoning Bedah and his father to the Moscoviya the next morning; they said it concerned the insurance on the car. The two reported to Captain Eddie at 9:00 the next morning. The father was questioned for several hours and released. Bedah was detained. Two days later the detention was extended. When the family protested to their attorney, Mohammad Abu Ghosh, he replied, "Why are you worried. This isn't an Arab country. They won't kill him." The family does not believe Bedah killed himself; according to them he had no reason to. The day before his death he had asked for clean clothes and cigarettes. When the family received the body Bedah's teeth were missing and his head had been severely disfigured from beating. Demonstrations erupted at the funeral Aug. 17.

The death of Atta Yusef Ahmad Mohammad Iyad, 21, from Kalandiya, Aug. 11 in Dhahariya prison, was also announced as suicide. Prisoners released from Dhahariya say that Iyad had been under interrogation for over 50 days. Early in the interrogation he had become partially paralysed as a result of a

head injury; he was unable to stand or speak. He was also injected with an unknown substance. Fellow prisoners who demanded medical treatment for him were transferred from Dhahariya. The ICRC was also not permitted to see him. Iyad spent long periods in solitary confinement. The day he died he was taken to interrogation and beaten by two Shin Bet agents and soldiers; they then left the room, throwing tear gas into it. Prisoners in nearby rooms were overcome by the tear gas. After a time the soldiers and Shin Bet returned. They took Iyad outside, bound him hand and foot and continued beating him. About eight soldiers were involved. They then put him in solitary, still bound, and threw more tear gas in. Two hours later he was dead."

"Iyad spent long periods in solitary confinement. The day he died he was taken to interrogation and beaten by two Shin Bet agents and soldiers; they then left the room, throwing tear gas into it. Prisoners in nearby rooms were overcome by the tear gas. After a time the soldiers and Shin Bet returned. They took Iyad outside, bound him hand and foot and continued beating him. About eight soldiers were involved. They then put him in solitary, still bound, and threw more tear gas in. Two hours later he was dead."

21.

Maysara Ahmad Mattar, 25, from Sheikh Radwan, had not returned from his work in Tel Aviv between Aug. 12 and 19. The family was summoned to the military governor Aug. 19 and told to go to Jaffa to put up bail for him. When they went there soldiers told them he was not there but in Abu Kbir; that he was not arrested but dead. Abu Kbir refused to release the body to the family. They went back to Gaza, where the military governor told them they would receive the body after the beginning of the nightly curfew. They received the body Aug. 21.

OTHER DEATHS: Hanni Adel a-Turk, 37, from Gaza City, was shot July 25 in the shoulder, stomach and leg; he died July 28 in Ahli hospital. Abdul Fattah Yusuf Alayan, 24, from Deir Abu Daif (Jenin), was shot in the head July 20 and died July 28. He was buried at 8:00 p.m. with a huge demonstration. Ribhi Barakat Ka'ed, 67, an American citizen of Palestinian origin visiting from



Columbus, Ohio, was trying to release his grandson from soldiers in Beitza July 31, when he had a heart attack and died. Ala'addin Al Aghbar, 18, from Nabulus, was shot in the stomach Aug. 2 and died in demonstrations protesting the Aug. 1 expulsion of eight Palestinians. Two others were injured by bullets in that demonstration. Nidal Abdul Karim

Hamdan Sawaf, 17, from Toubas, was killed by bullets in his head and neck Aug. 21.

SERIOUS INJURIES: Intrauterine fetal death from tear gas continues to be a serious issue. One physician estimates that there have been at least 400 cases in the second and third trimesters of pregnancy alone, where the relationship between the tear gas and the miscarriage is clearer. He refuses to speculate about the number of first trimester miscarriages caused by the gas. Husan village was under curfew from July 28 to Aug. 10; tear gas was used repeatedly and intensively. Three sisters temporarily staying in their parents' home, Fahima Mohammad Ahmad Zaoui, 30, four months pregnant; Adiyah Mohammad Ahmad Zaoui, 25, four months pregnant; and Sa'ad Mohammad Ahmad Zaoui, 20, nine months pregnant, all lost their babies from the gas. A 20-year-old woman from Kalkiya, six months pregnant, who miscarried from tear gas thrown into her home, remained in Ithi-had hospital in Nabulus Aug. 1. In Silat Al Harthieh Aug. 10 a woman eight months pregnant lost her baby after being tear gassed; many others were overcome by the gas. Partly because of the number of extremely long curfews during this period, our information regarding recent miscarriages is more than usually incomplete.

In addition to the deaths of

three workers in Or Yehuda there have been a number of beating attacks on Palestinian workers in Israel. Their Jewish employers are also beaten when they try to defend them. Four Hassids (ultra-orthodox Jews) poured a bucket of concentrated soap over the head of a 24-year-old man from Hares (Tulkarm) in Netanya Aug. 4, blinding him for several hours. About 30 more Hassids participated in beating him after the soap had been poured. Netanya hospital refused to treat him, claiming that there was no eye doctor. He was taken to Mair hospital in Kfar Saba and then to an eye doctor in Nablus.

It is impossible to know how many people are being brutally beaten. Three young people from Jabalya, 7, 11, and 15, arrested July 29, were found near the fence of Ansar 2 detention centre Aug. 2 severely beaten. They were treated at the UNRWA clinic and then taken back to the camp. Among eight people beaten in Gaza City Aug. 3 were two 5-year-old boys. Two mentally retarded people, 12 and 21 years old, were among those beaten and left in the street in Jabalya Aug. 7. Injuries in Gaza City from beating Aug. 9 include people 12-70 years old; one is a 50-year-old woman. Many people, including young and old people, are beaten in their homes under curfew. As with tear gas miscarriages, the curfews make that information extremely difficult to gather or assess.

OPEN FORUM

Terrorists

TWO Israeli members of a Jewish terrorist organisation, announced last week over the Israeli TV that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir masterminded the assassination of Folke Bernadotte, the appointed U.N. Middle East mediator for the Palestine problem in 1948.

I need perhaps not emphasise, in this connection, that the assassination of Bernadotte was not the first nor the last crime committed by Shamir and his gang against innocent Palestinians and British. There is on record a long list of criminal acts committed by Shamir, that he was sentenced to death after a fair trial by a British court.

It is no secret that the two notorious terrorist organisations headed by Shamir and his predecessor, Menachem Begin, were founded solely and wholly to eliminate any body who did not blindly support the creation of a Jewish state on lands belonging to the Palestinian Arabs. Bernadotte as a matter of fact supported the Israeli state, and lost his life simply because he recommended some modifications to the frontiers and also recommended the return of the refugees who fled their homes because of Jewish terrorism. Notwithstanding his past criminal record, Shamir receives red carpet treatment when he visits Washington, whilst this same Washington refuses to talk to the PLO which represents the victims of Shamir and his clique, although the PLO is now earnestly seeking a peaceful and just solution to the 70 year old Palestine problem. How does the U.S. government expect to achieve peace in the Middle East, when she does not talk to one of its principal parties.

B.I. Ennab

LETTERS

Muslim Umma's common markets

DURING my last visit to Saudi Arabia for Haj this year I came across an article "Towards Greater Maghreb" in Arab News, Jeddah, dated June 12, 1988, and was much interested if this idea may be further expanded to include the rest of the Muslim countries also. In view of this I suggest that a proposal may be put up in the next meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic countries for the establishment of five regional economic committees as below. These will help closer ties, better cooperation and coordination, development and progress, like the European Economic Committee.

Sub organisation of the northern Muslim countries, to include, Albania, Cyprus, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan (when liberated) and Pakistan.

Sub organisation of the eastern Muslim countries to include, Maldives, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Dar-Ul-Salam and Moro (Provisional).

Sub organisation of the central Muslim countries to include, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, U.A.E., Oman, North Yemen, South Yemen and Palestine (Provisional).

Sub organisation of the western Muslim countries to include, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Upper Volta, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Polisario (if decided to be independent).

Sub organisation of the southern Muslim countries include, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Eritrea (Provisional), Djibouti, Somalia, Camerouns, Uganda and the Comores.

M. Abbas Akhtar
Lahore,
Pakistan.

'There is only one option for Israel'

The following are excerpts from an address made by senate speaker Ahmad Lawzi to the conference of the International Parliamentarian Union that was held in Sofia, Bulgaria Sept. 19-24.

THE QUESTION of Palestine is one of the most important hotbeds of tension that has been threatening peace and stability in the Middle East and world peace over many decades, because in fact it is the crux of the conflict in our region which is vital to world peace and prosperity. It is the tragedy of the Palestinian Arab people and the occupation by Israel of its homeland where it has been living for thousands of years. This occupation took place twenty one years ago. Israel continues its aggression and settlement policy, expels that people, confiscates its properties, destroys its houses and denies its rights.

Israel — as you are aware — refuses United Nations resolutions and other peace initiatives and proceeds with its racist policy totally indifferent to human rights, the U.N. Charter and the Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians During War and Under Occupation.

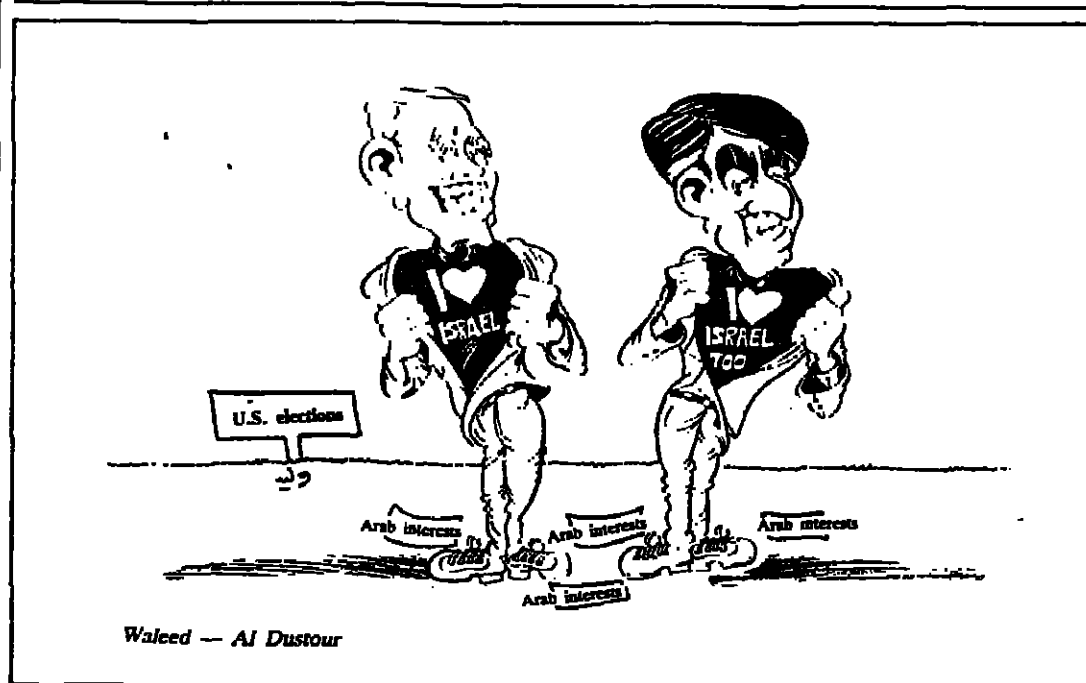
The Palestinian people — in the light of the fruitlessness of the international efforts for lifting oppression — could not find a way for its salvation other than waging its uprising which went into its tenth month and to declare its rebellion against the Israeli occupation and the colonisation of its homeland.

The whole world hears and sees in pain and astonishment and disapproves the tragedies of killing, terrorism, displacement and collective penalties by which Israel encounters the stone-throwing children, women, old-aged persons and unarmed civilians in the occupied Arab territories.

Israel continues its disregard of and indifference to international resolutions when it announces

parties; in response on its part to the request of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; and in deference to the Arab and international trend to support the right of the Palestinian people in its homeland and its self-determination on its soil; Jordan decided to dismantle its legal and administrative links with the occupied West Bank so that the Israeli reality will be exposed as an imperialist country in the face of the Palestinian people and the legitimate representative thereof, the PLO.

Today Israel has one option in front of it, that is the option of the Palestinian people and to deal with it and with its organisation in order to achieve a comprehensive and just solution to the question of Palestine within the framework of an international conference in which shall participate the parties to the conflict and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.



Waleed — Al Dustour

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Millions of locusts darken sky over Khartoum

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Millions of red and grey locusts darkened the sky over Khartoum for 90 minutes Monday morning, some landing on cultivated fields along the Nile to devour the crops. Huge swarms of the insects began arriving about 7.30 a.m. (0430GMT) and left at about 9 a.m. (0600GMT). The sun was completely covered for almost half an hour of the 1½ hour period. Officials had no immediate estimate of the size of the swarm, which came in from the east and moved in a westerly direction, or the amount of damage it left behind. Torrential rains caused disastrous flooding in Khartoum last month, and experts said the greening of normally barren desert areas created perfect breeding grounds for locusts. Earlier this month, Agriculture Minister Al-Fatih Al-Tigani said Sudan's locust threat had entered "a critical stage." He said that the government had destroyed half of about 60 potential swarms in the country but that Sudan lacked sufficient insecticides or equipment to spray all agricultural lands facing an invasion.

Egypt concerned about helicopter theft

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — The foreign ministry on Monday summoned the Cypriot ambassador and relayed Egypt's concern about the disappearance from Larnaca airport of a helicopter whose ownership is disputed between a West German and an Egyptian company. Yehya Rifaa, an assistant to Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid, told Ambassador Alecos Shampos of "Egypt's concern about the theft of the plane." The ambassador assured Rifaa that an investigation was under way and that Cyprus would do all it can to ensure rights of the Egyptian company are protected, ministry sources said. On Sept. 18, Cypriot police charged a West German pilot, Hans Wolfgang Zigel, with stealing the helicopter from the airport on the eastern coast of Cyprus. Police sources said they believed Zigel flew the aircraft to northern Cyprus. The helicopter had been impounded by court order after its arrival at Larnaca from Egypt in January 1987, pending settlement of a dispute between a West German and an Egyptian company over its ownership.

Pipeline leak threatens Abu Dhabi

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Corrosion has holed an oil pipeline off the United Arab Emirates and forced the complete suspension of a 15,000-barrel per day production from an offshore oil field, oil industry executives reported Monday. The sources, who could only be identified as Japanese, said production at the central Mubarrak oil field, 25 kilometres west of Abu Dhabi, was suspended on Aug. 23, when the first of six holes was discovered. The oil field is operated by Abu Dhabi Oil Company-Japan, ADOC, a joint venture between the state's national oil company and the Japan Oil Development Co. The sources said ADOC clamped a state of emergency and was trying to combat pollution from the first hole, some 15 kilometres of Mubarrak island. That track alone has already leaked an estimated 15,000 barrels.

Hart in Syria for U.S. hostage talks

DAMASCUS (R) — Former U.S. Democratic presidential hopeful Gary Hart arrived in Syria Monday for a three-day visit centred on efforts to free American hostages in Lebanon. He told Reuters he would also discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq peace talks. "I am here to learn as much as I can on all these issues. I visited some countries in the region and did not have a chance to visit Syria. This is my first visit," he said. Syria is the main foreign power broker in Lebanon where ten Americans

are among people missing and believed kidnapped. "As you know, the hostage issue concerns all Americans. It concerns the government a great deal. We hope the hostages will be able to return safely home some way," Hart said. He said he wanted to learn the Syrian view on the crisis in Lebanon after parliament's failure to elect a new president there left the war-torn country with two rival governments. Asked if he was acting in any way for the Reagan administration Hart said: "No. President Reagan will never give me an assignment."

Iranians execute Iraqi

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Monday executed an Iraqi they say they found guilty of spying for Iraq and of planting bombs, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said. IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, said Qotbeddin Faramarzi was executed early Monday in the west Iranian city of Bakhtaran (formerly Kermanshah). Executions are usually by firing squad in Iran. The agency said the man was found guilty of a court martial of spying and planting bombs in Bakhtaran and in the capital, Tehran. Iran and Iraq are now involved in peace negotiations after fighting an eight-year-long war until a United Nations-negotiated ceasefire came into operation on August 20.

Shamir reports on polio outbreak

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir reported to the Israeli cabinet Sunday on an outbreak of polio that has afflicted 12 people but health officials rejected calls to vaccinate the entire population. Eight Israelis had been admitted to hospital with polio in the last few weeks and four others were found to be carrying the virus. No one has died yet, said a health official. He said the outbreak was limited and the health ministry had no intention of broadening the vaccination programme throughout the country.

'Germany thanks Iran for helping free hostage'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — West Germany has thanked Iran for helping secure the release of its last citizen held hostage in Lebanon and urged Tehran to use its influence on Lebanese extremists to free other foreign captives. The official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, reported Sunday that parliament speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani received two messages from West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, expressing appreciation for efforts Iran exerted to free business executive Rudolf Cordes Sept. 12. IRNA said Kohl and Genscher "expressed hope that more hostages now in Lebanon would be released through Iran's mediation." It quoted Genscher as saying West Germany was willing to "expand" bilateral relations with Iran, but gave no further details.

Polisario names new 'foreign minister'

TUNIS (R) — The Polisario Front, fighting Morocco over the Western Sahara, said Monday it had appointed a new foreign minister of the self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR). He is Mohammed Sidati, former councillor to the SADR prime minister and secretary-general of the presidency, who takes over the foreign affairs portfolio in the second reshuffle of the SADR leadership since August 16. In the last reshuffle the number of ministers was reduced from 13 to eight after the United Nations handed a peace plan to Morocco and Polisario which accepted it with unspecified reservations on August 30.

Iraqis ponder diverting Shatt Al Arab waterway

By Salah Nasrawi
The Associated Press

BASRA, Iraq — With peace talks stalled over the disputed Shatt Al Arab waterway, Iraqi leaders are seriously considering diverting it through a man-made river to another waterway to restore access to the Gulf blocked by eight years of war with Iran.

The official Iraqi News Agency said President Saddam Hussein met with his top military aides several days ago to discuss "studies on diverting the Shatt Al Arab."

It is Iraq's only deep-water outlet to the Gulf and has been closed since the Gulf war erupted in September 1980.

The waterway, formed by the confluence of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, is the southern boundary between the two Gulf foes.

Iraqi leaders have been talking about diverting the 200-kilometre Shatt Al Arab since United Nations-sponsored peace talks deadlocked over the legal status of the waterway and Iraq's right of navigation.

Iraq is demanding that the waterway be cleared of sunken ships, mines and silt and reopened for shipping to implement the U.N.-sponsored ceasefire agreement that took effect Aug. 20.

Baghdad abrogated a 1975 treaty with Iran to share navigation just before the war broke in 1980. Iran insists the agreement is

still valid and says it will not budget until Baghdad accepts that.

Long-term solution

Iraqi officials insist that the diversion scheme is not just a means of pressuring Tehran to accept a new agreement that recognises "Iraq's full and historic sovereignty" of the waterway, but "a serious effort to solve a long-standing problem."

Clearing the Shatt Al Arab, which means river of the Arabs, could take up to five years during which Iraq would remain landlocked.

The scheme being considered involves digging a canal from the small port of Ma'qal on the Shatt Al Arab, about 100 kilometres north of Basra, southwest to the Khor Abdullah waterway in the northern end of the Gulf.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sadoun Hamadi, a member of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, has indicated that another option to reopen Iraq's access to the Gulf would be to dig a canal parallel to the Shatt Al Arab and take the water from it. Either move would be fraught with political and military dangers and would dramatically alter the basis of the peace talks.

"Wherever the canal is, the Shatt would be un navigable," a Western diplomat said in Baghdad.

The diversion idea "is a bold move which Iranian leader also must have been studying," the

diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Iran's powerful parliament speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, last week said the dispute over Shatt Al Arab, which the Iranians call the Arvand River, could reignite the war.

He dismissed Iraqi threats to divert the waterway as "ridiculous" and stressed: "The quicker the river is cleared the greater benefit for both Iran and Iraq."

Feasible, practical

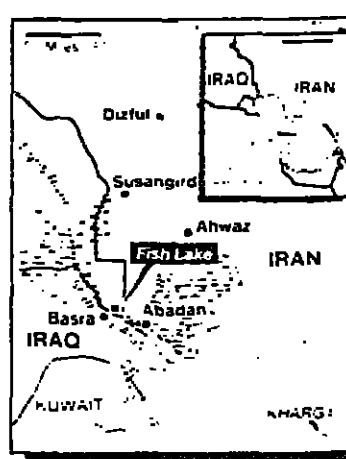
The former head of Iraq's ports authority in Basra, who asked that he was not named, told the Associated Press that the diversion scheme "is not only feasible, but practical from both a hydrological and topographical point of view."

"If we compare it with similar projects, like the Suez and Panama canals, the area under study is smoother and even forms a natural riverbed," said the former official, who is currently a lecturer at Basra University's engineering faculty.

"The Iraqis... should take this matter very seriously," Hamadi said in a British Broadcasting Corp. interview last Thursday.

Iran has two commercial ports, Khorramshahr and Abadan, and a naval base at Khosrowabad on the Shatt Al Arab that have all been closed since the early days of the war.

While the Iraqis only have ab-



out 16 kilometres of coastline between the Shatt Al Arab's estuary and the Kuwaiti border to the west, Iran has 2,300 kilometres of coastline running all the way down the Gulf to the Arabian Sea.

International companies are waiting to start dredging the Shatt Al Arab and the Khor Abdullah waterway, which has been blocked by the Iraqis.

Seventy-five ships have been stranded in the palm-fringed Shatt Al Arab since the start of the war. Several wrecks block the waterway, which is also littered with mines and unexploded shells and missiles.

Another 18 vessels are stranded in the Khor Abdullah, but these could be cleared more easily since sovereignty of that waterway is not in question...

Dinka tribesmen bear brunt of Sudan's war and famine

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

AL MUGLAD, Sudan — The Dinkas, tall, proud and war-loving tribesmen who once lorded it over southern Sudan, have suffered heavily under the twin ravages of war and famine.

The authorities regard them as possible collaborators with rebels, Arab militias — armed by the government for the declared purpose of self-defence against the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) — have stolen their cattle, burned their villages and abducted women and children.

Rival tribes in the south have been only too happy to watch the disintegration of the Dinkas, according to foreign relief officials.

Even rebels of the SPLA, mainly Dinkas themselves, have not spared fellow-tribesmen. Human rights activists in Sudan and abroad say the rebels have forced some civilians to do hard labour for them and have killed others for refusing to join the SPLA.

SPLA attacks on Arab herdsman venturing into the northern fringes of the south with their cattle have triggered reprisals for which the Dinkas have paid in blood.

The Dinkas, Sudan's largest single ethnic group, comprised three to five million of the estimated six million people living in the south before the guerrilla war's destruction of the agricultural cycle created famine conditions.

No one knows how many are left. Some reports say half the south's population tried to flee to other parts of Sudan or to Ethiopia in search of food and security.

About 3,500 southern refugees, mainly Dinkas, have reached a camp at the remote town of Al Muglad in South Kordofan Province. Most of them are suffering from severe malnutrition and diseases including malaria, measles, diarrhoea, typhoid and dysentery.

Starving to death

More than 200 have died since July and the camp's relief workers fear that up to half of the rest could be wiped out in heavy rains and cold weather this month.

In a camp at the town of Al Meham further south, almost 3,500 people, mostly Dinkas, have starved to death since June and the outlook is bleak for up to 30,000 more refugees there.

Almost none of the people in the Al Muglad camp had shoes and only a few wore sufficient clothes. They made gestures indicating their hunger and need for clothing to a group of visiting reporters.

"They feel they lost a lot of their dignity when they lost their clothes," said one of three nurses from the Irish charity concern which runs the camp, 470 miles southwest of Khartoum.

But refugees said they lost their dignity, long before they began

the punishing trek to northern Sudan, when they lost their cattle to hungry and unruly rebels or to raiding militias.

Dinka life revolves around cattle. "Take the cows away and the Dinkas have very little to live for," said one relief worker in South Kordofan.

Young Dinkas sing of their valour in terms of favourite bulls and of their future wives in terms of cows. Cattle are the symbol of wealth and the means to pay a bride's dowry.

Before the guerrilla war began in 1983, educated Dinkas dominated jobs in the then-autonomous south and were jealously regarded by smaller tribes as the rich men of the region.

United Nations and relief officials in Khartoum blame the Dinka ordeal mainly on the SPLA, citing frequent rebel ambushes of relief convoys and a standing threat to shoot down planes flying over the south without rebel permission.

Waiting for Garang

A relief operation by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to feed one million southern famine victims has been stalled for more than a month because SPLA leader John Garang, a Dinka, is unavailable to give the go-ahead.

The Dinkas who managed to reach Al Muglad or Al Meirum are now unwanted guests in the land of the Al Mesiriah tribe. The two tribes traditionally

fought over grazing lands, but their animosity is now further fuelled by religious differences. The Mesiriahs, like the majority of northern Sudanese, are Muslims whereas the Dinkas are animists or Christians.

The SPLA launched its war with the declared aim of freeing the south of what it regards the domination of Arabs from the Muslim north.

Soldiers from local army garrisons guard the Al Muglad and Al Meirum camps at night to fend off possible Mesiriah attacks, but relief workers said the camp at Al Muglad was raided in both July and September.

Relief workers said English-speaking Dinkas were desperately needed in the camps to translate for nurses and doctors, but security authorities were suspicious of Dinkas with qualifications.

"We don't have a single educated Dinka in the camps. Those with any education are either in Khartoum or have joined the SPLA," one relief worker said. The Mesiriahs regarded the Dinka camps as a health hazard and instantly blamed any sickness among them on the presence of the Dinka refugees, relief workers said.

"Don't run away with the idea that the Dinkas are angels," one relief worker said. "It just so happens now that the balance of power is heavily in favour of the Arabs."

"After all, the Dinkas here are starving while the Mesiriahs have Kalashnikov rifles."

Ozal staying despite referendum defeat

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said Monday his ruling Motherland Party would stay in power despite defeat in a constitutional referendum.

Ozal, who last week said he might quit politics if he did not win enough "yes" votes in the plebiscite, indicated firmly that he would not step down.

"We will be in power for four more years. The result is quite satisfactory for us," the pro-Western conservative said on state television.

"Against Anap (the Motherland Party) none of the other parties has been able to become an alternative to us, not even in

the worst conditions for us." Nearly two-thirds of these voting in Sunday's referendum opposed the amendment that would have brought forward local elections to November from next March.

The provisional figure of 35.1 per cent voting "yes" to change compared with the 36.3 per cent vote from the 26.6 million electorate which gave Ozal victory in last November's general election. "The support given to Ozal is not sufficient. He is a man who can't be trusted... The nation said 'No' but he insisted on staying," Erdal Inonu, head of the opposition Social Democrat Populist Party, told reporters after the

referendum. Ozal's Motherland Party has 292 seats in the 450-seat parliament. Opposition parties portrayed the referendum as a confidence vote in Ozal, whose free-wheeling economic policies have pushed up inflation to 78 per cent.

"What was rejected by the nation is the government... (and) Prime Minister Ozal himself," said Suleyman Demirel, a four-time premier who heads the centre-right True Path Party (TPP). "If you look for a winner in this (referendum), it is the nation itself. There are new conditions in Turkey now. No one can claim

that nothing has happened," he said.

Motherland officials said Ozal's repeated threats to resign last week had boosted the "yes" vote, which public opinion polls two weeks ago showed was running at around 26 per cent.

Ozal has promoted wider democracy within NATO-member Turkey and closer ties with the West since taking office in 1983 after three years of army rule crushed extremist political violence.

"(Referendum) voters have shown their preference for stability," Oktay Eksi, a political columnist with the mass-circulation daily Hurriyet, said on television.

Taha Akyol, of the conservative daily Turcuman, said: "The political picture seems to be strongly settled. Despite the inflation problem, stabilisation in Motherland votes shows its foundations are settled."

Ozal is viewed widely as the only person who can cement factions in the broad-based Motherland Party, embracing politicians from the religious right to Western-style liberals.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Lebanese go back to work amid standoff

(Continued from page one)

politicians denounced it and pledged to support Gemayel's last incumbent government, led by acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss.

Shops, banks and other businesses opened Monday after being closed since Thursday. Government employees returned to conflicting orders from both cabinets demanding their loyalty. Most civilians grabbed food and hid at home over the weekend because of fears that the absence of a president and deadlock between the rival administrations would ignite fresh violence.

Apun summoned Arab diplomats to meetings Monday, seeking recognition of his government, after Syria rejected his rule as illegal, renewing backing of the Hoss cabinet.

An aide said Aoun asked the diplomats to "inform your governments that the cabinet appointed by President Amin Gemayel before his term ended is the legitimate executive body in Lebanon."

The source, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity, quoted Aoun as saying his government's aim was to "speed up the election of a new president."

The first to meet with Aoun in east Beirut Monday were the Iraqi charge d'affaires, Sabhar Al-Hadithi, and the head of the Egyptian interest section, Hassan Shash. They are Cairo's and Baghdad's most senior representatives in Beirut.

"We expressed to Gen. Aoun our hope that the Lebanese would agree on the election of a new president to unite the country and avert the evil of parti-

tion," Shash added. Hadithi said Baghdad was for "the election of a new president and supports Lebanon's unity."

Hoss and Aoun each had a series of meetings at the weekend with envoys of the five member states of the United Nations Security Council as they struggled for recognition. None of the diplomats or their governments made any commitments publicly to either side.

On Monday, Hoss said in west Beirut that it "is not a governmental issue. The problem is the fact that parliament hasn't met to elect a new president."

"The problem ends as soon as parliament meets to elect a presi-

dent," Hoss told reporters, in the first indication since Thursday that there may still be hope for reunifying government institutions.

Radio stations said an American envoy was due in Damascus for talks on the government tug-of-war in Beirut.

Syria and the United States agreed earlier this month to support Parliamentarianism Mikhael Daher as a consensus candidate for president.

Pro-Syrian political sources said Hoss and his cabinet were trying to convene a meeting of former presidents, prime ministers and other top officials to rally opposition to Aoun.

Israelis kill three

(Continued from page one)

Two groups standing on opposing hills. Police fired tear-gas and then live ammunition, the photographer said. Minutes later, Palestinians carried Mattar, bleeding from the head, to a car and sped off.

Thousands of Palestinians attended Mattar's funeral, chanting slogans and waving Palestinian flags. Police fired tear-gas at the demonstrators, the photographer said.

Mattar's death brought to 283 the number of Palestinians killed since the Dec. 8 start of the uprising.

Widespread clashes erupted throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and at least 68 Palestinians were wounded, hospital officials said.

Among the wounded was an 11-year-old deaf-mute boy from Gaza City who was in serious condition with a bullet wound in the chest, the officials said.

The worst clashes erupted in Gaza City where troops opened fire on stone-throwing Palestinians, hospital officials said.

The one-day strike, the fourth this month, was ordered by the United National Leadership of the Uprising and the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas.

Streets were deserted in towns, villages and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza. Shops were shuttered, transportation came to a halt and Palestinians stayed home from their jobs.

In Bethlehem, about 20 white bedsheets sprayed with red swastikas fluttered from electricity poles near the Church of the Nativity.

Dozens of soldiers patrolled the deserted cobblestone alleys of Bethlehem and troops searched cars with blue West Bank licence plates at two checkpoints along the main highway leading to Jerusalem, seven kilometres to the north.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahllyah Girls School

Take away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.

6:30-Midnight

Tel. 638968

慕堂餐廳

MANDARIN Chinese Restaurant

The only typical Chinese cuisine in Amman.

Chinese Flaming pot is available

Take away available

Open daily 12:00-15:30

18:00-23:30

Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic Bridge

Amman, Jordan

Tel: 681922

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.

6:30-Midnight

CHINESE RESTAURANT

TAIWAN TOURISMO

Authentic Chinese Food

Korean Bar-B-Q

Charcoal Flaming Pot

Take-away service

Open daily Noon - 3:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. - midnight

Location: Near 3rd Circle opposite Akliah Hospital

Tel: 641093

Kashmir Restaurant

FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT

Special Executive Luncheons

Take away service available

Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm

7:30-11:30 pm

After the Holiday Inn hotel Towards 3rd circle

Tel: 659519 659520

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL

667171/6-670141/4

Ext. 223

EVERY DAY

PEOPLE WHO NEED CLEANING SERVICES

CALL US!

Electrolux

P.O. Box 925229 AMMAN

Tel. 604671

CROWN INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT

packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service

Agents all over the world

Tel: 664090, 660852

Tlx: 22205 BESMCO JO

P.O. Box 926487 AMMAN JORDAN

For all your:

Packing, Air Freight Forwarding, Customs Clearance, Door-to-door Service, Ticketing and Reservation needs, please call:

AMIN KAWAR & SONS

Abdel Hamid Sharaf Street

Shmeisani

P.O. Box 7806 Amman, Jordan

Tel. 604676, 604696

G-7 statement underpins dollar; Officials stress farming sector role

gold tumbles to 21-month low

LONDON (R) — The dollar firmed Monday after major industrialised nations reaffirmed their commitment to stable exchange rates, while gold fell to a 21-month low as market concern about inflation eased, dealers said.

Finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven (G-7) nations meeting in West Berlin during the annual International Monetary Fund/World Bank gathering said Saturday that inflation was under control and they endorsed the present pattern of exchange rates.

Last month when speculators tested this commitment to stable currency rates by bidding up the dollar, central banks of the G-7 nations — Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and West Germany — had to spend billions of dollars to halt the U.S. currency's rise.

In an apparent attempt to head off another speculative assault on the dollar, the G-7 dropped from

their statement Saturday some key wording on currency policy that had been contained in their last three communiqués.

That wording — that they did not want a further dollar fall — was taken by speculators as a green light to buy dollars after it was repeated by G-7 leaders at their summit in June.

This time around, the policy-makers simply emphasised their continued interest in stable exchange rates and backed that up with public statements at press briefings afterwards.

Monday morning the dollar's undertone was firm. At one point it touched 1.8855 Deutschmarks and 134.83 Japanese yen against closes in London Friday of 1.8745

and 134.43.

"The G-7 meeting has not really changed anything — the commitment to stability, intervention, all this was expected," said one dealer with a leading U.S. bank in London.

"The market was expecting exactly what came out of the meeting," said another London-based currency trader.

But some dealers saw the market testing the central banks' will to curb the strength of the dollar.

"Following the G-7 meeting central banks will find it harder to stop the dollar rising on good news," said David Cocker, senior corporate advisor at Chemical Bank, London.

The 1.8850 mark level is considered by many dealers as a likely trigger point for central bank intervention.

"If we were to break through 1.8850 then we would be looking at 1.92," said Nick Murphy, currency analyst at Barclays De

Zoete Wedd in London.

The dollar's strength gave another knock to gold which has tumbled \$40 an ounce this month as concern about inflation waned on the world's financial markets.

Higher interest rates and ample supplies of gold have also been factors in the decline of bullion which was quoted as low as \$387.35 an ounce in Europe Monday morning.

The metal's morning fixing in London was \$389.05 an ounce — its lowest setting since December 1986. It was fixed Friday afternoon at \$400.35.

Falling oil prices have been another key factor pushing down the gold price as they point to lower inflation.

Oil remained weak Monday with traders awaiting the outcome of a Madrid meeting of key OPEC ministers, members of the group's price monitoring committee.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Tabbaa has said that investments in any field would contribute to developing the national income and would lead to raising the standard of living for individuals and achieve economic independence and financial strength.

Speaking at a seminar held Saturday at the Professional Associations' Complex, Tabbaa discussed the government's recent economic measures and their implications for the agricultural sector in the country.

The minister said that the government has carried out its duty in this field and urged businessmen to take the initiative to participate in the development process.

He said that serious studies and careful planning and organisation were the most important elements for the success and productivity of investments. He pointed

out that his ministry's specialised departments were always ready to help investors and to provide them with needed assistance.

The minister called on businessmen to benefit from the latest technologies in farming and industries towards the increase in productivity and improvement of quality.

Agriculture Minister Marwan Hmoud, also speaking at the seminar, said that the recent economic measures, which aim at supporting and reactivating investments were not only technical, but also comprised of productive economic steps.

He said the government was looking forward to a bigger role by food and farming industries and that success in this field would achieve more independence for the farming sector.

Agricultural engineer Mohammad Abdul Aziz delivered a speech at the seminar in which he said that the farming sector was a

vital sector in the Kingdom's national economy in terms of its contribution to the national income or its employment of labour and guaranteeing food security.

Abdul Aziz called on the government to handle the agricultural sector with utmost care and

sensitivity because it is directly linked to the land and the people. He urged the government to stop complete openness in the market and to adhere to protecting small producers and to issue incentives to improve productivity and exports through subsidies.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday rates					
Local selling rates in ffs					
Belgian franc (for 100)	95.40	96.40	Saudi riyal	105.90	106.80
Dutch guilder	176.90	178.70	Syrian lira (for JD 1)	95.00	97.00
French franc	61.70	62.80	Lebanese lira (for JD 1)	900.00	950.00
Italian lira (for 100)	26.90	27.20	Iraqi dinar	272.50	282.50
Japanese yen (for 100)	274.70	277.40	Kuwaiti dinar	1371.20	1383.50
Swedish crown	61.00	62.00	Egyptian pound (new)	164.20	169.50
Swiss franc	248.30	254.00	Omani rial	109.10	110.10
U.K. sterling pound	663.50	671.20	U.A.E. dirham	108.10	109.00
U.S. dollar	399.20	401.50	Omani rial	1032.00	1040.00
Deutschmark	212.00	214.60	Bahraini dinar	1035.00	1050.00

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for September 26, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	286150	JD 370593	308
Top three companies:			
Housing Bank	89623	JD 168543	15
Jordan Spinning and Weaving	83325	JD 74906	91
Arab Bank Ltd.	160	JD 17360	2
Parallel market:	3000	JD 2520	—
Development bonds:	194	JD 1950	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663191	Jordan Commercial Centres	603507
Ministry of Supply	663121	Free Zones Corporation	642001
Ministry of Finance	663631	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Planning	644466	Amman Chamber of Commerce	660181
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Industry	644740
Ministry of Communications	847391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662251
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	647378
Income Tax Department	660151	General Statistics Department	846171
Central Bank of Jordan	630301	Jordanian Businessmen Association	680663
Amman Customs Department	772181		
Social Security Corporation	643000		
Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6615/25	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2220/30	Canadian dollar	
	1.8875/85	Deutschmarks	
	2.1280/90	Dutch guilders	
	1.5973/83	Swiss francs	
	39.53/56	Belgian francs	
	6.4220/70	French francs	
	1407/1408	Italian lire	
	134.70/80	Japanese yen	
	6.4775/4825	Swedish crowns	
	6.9530/80	Norwegian crowns	
	7.2325/75	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	389.25/390.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The share market closed lower in dull trading as traders marked time ahead of Wednesday's release of August balance of payments data. The All Ordinaries Index fell 7.6 points to 1,543.5.

TOKYO — Share prices finished lower after see-sawing in limited activity amid uncertainty whether and for how long the market might close if the ailing emperor dies, brokers said. The Nikkei Index fell 59.17 points, 0.22 per cent, to 27,330.95.

HONG KONG — Market closed for mid-autumn festival holiday. SINGAPORE — Prices drifted lower due to lack of institutional interest and stop-loss selling. The Straits Times Industrial Index declined 10.61 to 1,023.10.

BOMBAY — Market closed for two-day accounting period. It will open again Wednesday.

FRANKFURT — Prices firmed slightly in quiet trade. Some dealers said the market was anchored by domestic institutional buying programmes. The Real-Time 30-share Dax index rose 4.45 to 1,257.05.

ZURICH — Shares were higher in reaction to the firm dollar and Friday's Wall Street gains, but turnover was low. The All-Share Swiss index rose 6.2 to 910.7.

PARIS — Prices were firm on general confidence generated by weekend group of seven statements. The 50-share bourse indicator rose by 1.29 per cent.

LONDON — Shares traded within a very tight range and ended narrowly mixed in sluggish trading. At 1446 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 0.2 at 1,792.2.

NEW YORK — Stocks showed little change in very quiet trade. Dealers said there was no important news to move the market. The Dow fluctuated narrowly around Friday's close at 2,091.

Japanese unveil new programme to assist 'middle-income' debtors

WEST BERLIN (R) — Japan Sunday unveiled a new scheme to put its massive trade surplus to work in helping the debt-laden Third World.

Under the plan, the Export-Import Bank of Japan would extend loans together with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help middle-income debtors put their economies back on track.

"Japan is ready to make additional untied loans on a case-by-case basis to support mid-term efforts by middle-income nations to restructure their economies," Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita told the IMF's Interim Committee.

The move is the latest in a flurry of activity by monetary officials to find new ways to address the problem of the developing world's \$1,200 billion of debt.

The new Japanese initiative does not require that the money be spent buying Japanese goods. Traditionally Japan has tied such loans to the purchase of equipment made in Japan.

The programme is aimed at so-called middle income states — including big debtors like Brazil and Mexico.

The poorest debtors, in sub-Saharan Africa got a break on their debt burden under an accord the major industrial countries reached Saturday.

The new Japanese plan differs from one proposed by Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa at the economic summit of major industrial nations in June, which received a lukewarm reception.

Under that scheme, the IMF was supposed to administer a trustee fund to be set up with foreign reserves transferred by debtor countries. The fund would be used to guarantee bonds that the debtors would swap for existing loans they owe to commercial bank creditors at a substantial discount.

Sumita will present an outline of the new plan at the IMF general assembly Tuesday. But Japanese officials said details still have to be worked out.

The export-import bank will make its loans under the IMF extends credits under its various facilities, including the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) set up in June to help debtor nations facing balance of payments difficulties.

Sumita unveiled the plan on behalf of Miyazawa who was unable to be here because of the illness of Emperor Hirohito.

The amount of the money to be lent by the export-import bank will be decided on a case-by-case basis, a Japanese official said. He said finance ministers from many nations at the IMF meeting welcomed Japan's new programme.

Earlier Sunday, Sumita pledged a decline in Japan's huge trade surplus and said Japan deserved a bigger say in the IMF in line with its position as the world's number two economic power.

"Given firm domestic demand

and a substantial increase of imports of manufactured goods, I expect a steady decline in Japan's current account surplus in the years ahead," he said.

Japan has been criticised by the United States and others for its huge surpluses, and urged to export less and buy more of other nations' goods to help balance the global economy.

Sumita's comments clashed with a prediction by the IMF itself Sunday of a rise next year in Japan's current account surplus to \$80.9 billion from \$78 billion this year.

Sumita also told the IMF Interim Committee: "I strongly hope that Japan's quota share in the IMF will be in line with Japan's economic fundamentals now that its share in the World Bank is the second largest after the United States."

Japan has a 4.7 per cent quota in the IMF, less than the stakes of the United States, Britain, West Germany and France. Its 6.7 per cent World Bank stake is second only to America's.

IMF sees strong global growth

BERLIN (AP) — Production and incomes will grow faster this year in Japan, the United States and West European countries than was expected after last October's stock market crash, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts.

"The upward revision to the output projections has been particularly large in the case of Japan,

where (production) is now expected to grow by over 5.5 per cent in 1988," said the fund's semi-annual World Economic Outlook.

A slowdown to 4.2 per cent is seen for 1989.

U.S. growth is expected to be four per cent, the highest rate since 1984. But a greater slowdown is predicted in 1989 to 2.8 per cent, a return to the 1987 figure which was the lowest since the recession in 1982.

A fund official said that growth rates this year are higher than the

long-term trend, due partly to the delayed effect of the drop in the price of the dollar and the price of oil.

The cheaper dollar gave a boost to U.S. exports, which became cheaper and more saleable. Cheaper oil lowers production costs in many countries.

To get the average national income, experts just divide total production — the gross national product — by the total population.

Growth has also revived in West Germany and France,

HOUSE-MAID

A family (parents and two kids) need a house-maid. Salary about \$100, on condition of staying day and night.

Tel: 840103, 840101 Ext. 33

LUXURIOUSLY FURNISHED SEMI VILLA FOR RENT

320 square metres in Shmeisani, area close to Birds Garden in a very convenient location, American furniture, TV, video... etc.

For information call 677681, timing is open.

FURNISHED BIG FLAT FOR RENT

Consists of 3 bedrooms, 2 salons, sitting room, kitchen and dining room. All utilities are independent.

Location: Jabal Amman - Fifth Circle

Please call tel: 601659.

MANY VILLAS AND APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Furnished or Unfurnished in Shmeisani, Sweifieh, Abdoun and many other locations.

For more information please call Wael Real Estate at 685342

HOUSE SALE

Wednesday and Thursday 28th and 29th September. Wide variety of household items and video camera. Location in Alia Housing at house number 169.



FOR RENT

Super deluxe apartment furnished and unfurnished. Three bedrooms — one master, three bathrooms, a big salon, living room, and kitchen, closed veranda, central heating, parking, children's playground.

Address: Fourth Circle, behind Kuwaiti Embassy of west side (direction), Dar Al Baida Street.

Please call tel. 625012

FOR SALE

1983 Mercedes-Benz 190E, airconditioning, AM/FM stereo cassette, sun roof, 60,000 km, excellent condition. Duty not paid.

Please call 644371 ext. 266.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Children of a Lesser God

Performances 3:30, 6:10, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

NAKED VENGEANCE

Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

THE BEACH GIRLS

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

BACK TO SCHOOL

Performances 3:30, 6:10, 8:30, 10:30

Iraqi chess team wins RJCF cup

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Royal Jordanian Chess Federation (RJCF) His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Monday attended the final chess match between the Jordanian and Iraqi teams at the Royal Jordanian Chess Club. The leader and members of the Iraqi chess delegation expressed gratitude to Jordan — under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein — and thanked Prince Mohammad for attending the match.

The RJCF press spokesman also thanked Prince Mohammad for supporting the RJCF activities and indicated that these matches are designed to consolidate cooperation between teams of the two countries and exchange expertise.

Prince Mohammad then handed a cup to the winning Iraqi team and medals to members of the two teams. The Iraqi team beat the Jordanian team by 12-8 points.

Baseball standings

NEW YORK (R) — Results of major league baseball games played on Sunday:

American League			
Boston Red Sox	6	New York Yankees	0
1st-Detroit Tigers	2	Baltimore Orioles	1
2nd-Detroit Tigers	7	Baltimore Orioles	4
Milwaukee Brewers	4	Oakland Athletics	2
Cleveland Indians	4	Toronto Blue Jays	3
Chicago White Sox	6	Kansas City Royals	5
Seattle Mariners	8	Texas Rangers	2
Minnesota Twins	6	California Angels	2
National League			
San Francisco Giants	2	Los Angeles Dodgers	0
Cincinnati Reds	2	Atlanta Braves	1
New York Mets	9	St. Louis Cardinals	7
Philadelphia Phillies	8	Montreal Expos	5
Pittsburgh Pirates	7	Chicago Cubs	4
San Diego Padres	9	Houston Astros	1

South African travel agency may sue Olympic officials

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African travel agencies may sue organisers of the Seoul Olympic games because South Korean authorities have refused visas to South African tourists to the games, a representative said.

“We have had certain undertakings that visas would be granted to people going on those packages and they have now gone back on those undertakings,” said Hendrick Conradie of the Association of South African travel

agencies.

Travel agencies have lost money and are considering taking legal action against games organisers, Conradie said on state-run South African radio.

Representatives of South African travel companies are in South Korea trying to sell tickets and accommodation booked for South Africans who have been refused visas, he added.

This year's Olympics have given South Africans a fresh reminder of their isolation. Barred from participating in the Olympics since 1960, South Africa cannot even get live television coverage of the Seoul games.

A South African fencing official who went to Seoul last week assuming he was accredited to help supervise the fencing events was sent home by South Korean authorities because of his nationality.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171-6

Olympic Medals Table

SEOUL (AP) — Medal table after Monday's events at the Summer Olympics (read gold, silver, bronze, total):

	G	S	B	T
Soviet Union	33	16	28	75
East Germany	27	21	19	67
United States	14	16	14	44
Romania	5	9	7	21
Bulgaria	7	7	6	20
China	3	8	9	20
West Germany	7	6	5	18
Hungary	8	5	2	15
Britain	3	6	6	15
South Korea	3	3	5	11
Italy	4	3	3	10
Australia	1	4	3	8
Poland	1	4	3	8
Japan	1	2	4	7
New Zealand	1	0	6	7
France	1	2	3	6
Sweden	0	2	3	5
Czechoslovakia	2	2	0	4
Netherlands	2	2	0	4
Rugoslavia	2	0	2	4
Canada	1	1	2	4
Finland	1	1	2	4
Norway	2	1	0	3
Switzerland	0	2	1	3
Denmark	1	1	0	2
Korea	1	0	1	2
Morocco	1	0	1	2
Spain	0	0	2	2
Portugal	1	0	0	1
Suriname	1	0	0	1
Turkey	1	0	0	1
Brazil	0	1	0	1
Chile	0	1	0	1
Costa Rica	0	1	0	1
Senegal	0	1	0	1
Belgium	0	1	0	1
Greece	0	0	1	1

Soviet medal tally reaches 75

Arab and African athletes win Olympic races

SEOUL (R) — An Arab and an African athlete stole the glory on the fourth day of the Seoul Olympic athletics competition on Monday.

Kenya's Paul Ereng out-sprinted Brazil's defending champion Joaquim Cruz to win the men's 800 metres then Moroccan Moulay Brahim Boutaib made no contest of the 10,000 metres.

This time last year neither man was even running their Olympic distance. Now they have taken on the world's best, winning conclusively.

Ereng ran a masterly race. He was content to wait in the middle of the field until the final straight then accelerated past Moroccan Said Aouita on the inside before surging past a struggling Cruz on the outside.

Boutaib's performance was even more commanding. He was one of a breakaway group of four, then took the lead after the half-way mark and pushed on relentlessly to win in 27 minutes 21.46 seconds, the fourth fastest time ever.

Boutaib, who looks set to follow in Aouita's footsteps as one of the world's great middle and long distance runners, had run only four 10,000 metre races before Monday, concentrating instead on the 5,000.

Aouita was a hot favourite to win gold in the 800, but had to settle for bronze behind Ereng and Cruz.

Boutaib has no doubts that his compatriot will bring Morocco a second gold.

“I am sure he will win gold in the 1,500,” Boutaib said.

America's Carl Lewis leaped into Olympic history Monday. The 10th day of the Seoul games also saw a golden-haired Dutch school teacher emerge from the pack to win a dramatic women's 82-kilometre cycling race.

Impressive Soviet and East German track and field victories put them well out front in the Seoul medals' race with a combined total of more than 140. The Soviets picked up another gold in weightlifting Monday night to lead with 33 golds and 77 medals overall. East Germany had 27 golds and a total of 67 medals. The United States trailed in third place with 14 golds and 44 overall.

Lewis, rebounding from his loss to Canada's Ben Johnson in the 100-metre dash, became the first Olympic long jump champion to retain his title. He led an American medal sweep with a leap of 8.72 metres to duplicate his victory of four years ago at Los Angeles.

Lewis' teammate, Roger Kingdom, also repeated his 1984 triumph in the 110-metre high hurdles, winning the Seoul event in the Olympic record time of 12.98 seconds — third fastest in history. He was the first 110 hurdler repeat winner since his countryman Lee Calhoun won the event in 1956 and 1960.

Track and field

In the women's 800, East German runners finished one-two as Signe Wouda outkicking Christine Wachtel in 1:56.10.

The Soviet Union's Olga Bryzgina won the women's 400 in 48.65 seconds, breaking the old mark of 48.83 set in 1984 by Valerie Brisco of the United States. The American defending champion faded to fourth on Monday.

Another Olympic mark was set by East Germany's Petta Felke with a 74.68-metre toss of the javelin that won her the gold medal in the women's event.

Diving

American Greg Louganis, meanwhile, moved a major step closer to his goal of becoming the first diver to repeat as a double Olympic champion. He outper-

formed two Chinese contenders — Xiong Ni and Li Kongzheng — in the preliminary round of platform diving and led a field of 12 qualifiers into Tuesday's final.

Cycling
Day 10 of the Olympics began with Dutch rider Monique Kohl having to hitch a lift to the start of the individual cycling road race with arch French rival Jeannie Longo after the Dutch team's bus was involved in a crash.

Kohl, her pigtail tied in the Dutch national colour of orange, won a mass sprint for the line.

Tennis

Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg was assured of a medal when he beat temperamental Italian Paolo Cane 6-1, 7-5 in swirling wind that sent debris floating past them on the centre court.



Said Aouita

Giants contest Olympic soccer semi-finals

SEOUL (R) — Three new talents on the international scene and a veteran with an insatiable thirst for goals hold the key to gold medal ambitions in the Olympic soccer tournament.

West Germany's Juergen Klinsmann, Romario of Brazil, the Soviet Union's Alexei Mikhailichenko and Italian strik-

er Antonio Virdis are the men who matter in the semi-finals on Tuesday.

They have scored a total of 14 goals so far and been hugely influential and inspirational.

Despite giant-killing exploits by Australia and Zambia in the group games, the teams with proven pedigrees have taken their places in a last four line-up.

Stylish Brazil, beaten Olympic finalists four years ago and determined to go one better in Seoul, face a West German side steadily growing in stature.

side and will be a strong adversary.

The West Germans also have one eye on the next world cup and national team manager Franz Beckenbauer has flown to South Korea to assess the Olympic side's potential.

Like Klinsmann, the Soviet Union's Mikhailichenko impressed during the European championships and has polished his reputation here.

The gangling Dynamo Kiev midfielder with the looping run was behind all three goals which destroyed Australia in the quarter-finals and has the class to repeat the demolition act against Italy.

Poor teamwork has let down the Italians but gems of individualism from Virdis helped them scramble into the last four.

The veteran Milan Striker, top scorer in the Italian league two seasons ago, has wonderful close control, a telling shot and a feel for the ball.

“Italy will be difficult opponents for us,” said Soviet Union coach Anatoli Bykhovets, who has shipped Brazil to win the gold. “I will be having a big think about how we approach the match. I was concerned about the work rate of some of our key players against Australia, especially in the first half.”

SEOUL OLYMPIC BRIEFS

Canadian gymnast performs with broken leg

SEOUL (R) — Sixteen-year-old Canadian gymnast Lori Strong completed her floor routine at the Seoul Olympics without realising that she had broken her right leg. Strong, now being pushed around the athletes village in a wheelchair by her compatriots, went to the medical centre complaining of a sore leg. Doctors found it was broken and she now needs six weeks to recover. I did not realise that my right leg was broken until I finished my routine on the floor,” she said.

Lost gold found

SEOUL (AP) — Davide Tizzano's Olympic gold medal is lost no more. It was found Monday by a skin diver in 15 centimetres of mud near the boat dock at the bottom of the Han river. Tizzano, 20, won the medal Sunday as an oarsman in Italy's quadruple sculls boat and lost it when celebrating teammates threw him into the river after the presentation ceremony. Diver Kang Su-Nam said he and other divers had been working an area in three metres of water at the dock for almost an hour when he felt the medal.

Five time competitor

SEOUL (AP) — Italy's Pietro Mennea made history Monday by becoming the first runner to compete in five Olympics. Mennea, the 1980 Olympic champion in the 200-metre dash and the world record-holder, finished fourth in his first-round heat in 21.10. Although his time was good enough to reach the second round, the 36-year-old from Barletta, Italy, who first competed in Munich in 1972, inexplicably did not start. Mennea called his first-round heat “a proud moment.” “I was a little emotional,” he said. “I’m the grandfather of these people.”

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J73 ♠ K1062 ♠ AQ83 ♠ Q6
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
A.—You have the right distribution and right suits for a takeout double, but you have too many wasted values in the opponents' suits. Pass, and wait to see how the auction develops.

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AKQ72 ♠ K43 ♠ Q762 ♠ 9
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?
A.—Because you are not strong enough to make a takeout double and then bid spades over any response from partner, and because you do not have an ideal shape for a double, simply overcall one spade. That action can be taken with a pretty good hand.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AJ2 ♠ 9 ♠ K83 ♠ AQ10852
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Partner's bidding shows two things: at least five spades (otherwise he would have responded one diamond initially) and a better than minimum response. A jump to three spades nicely describes the strength of your hand and the quality of your three-card support.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9 ♠ 762 ♠ 1052 ♠ KQ10963
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—That depends on your methods. If you play that a two-over-one response is a game force, you can afford to bid only two no trump now to hear what partner says. However, if your initial response promised only about 11 points, we suggest you jump to four spades. Partner's spade rebid virtually guarantees a six-card suit in this auction.

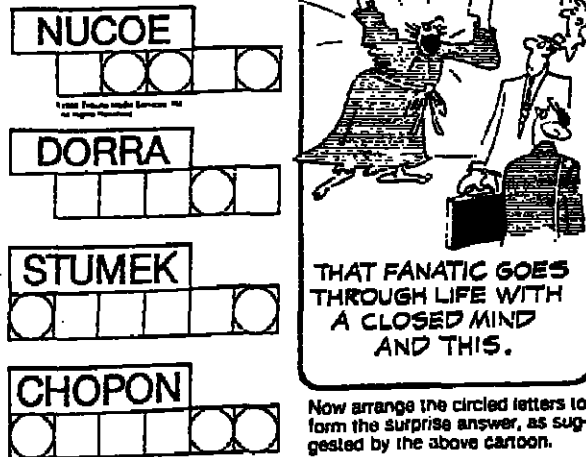
THE BETTER HALF By Harris



“I only do ants, mice, termites and roaches. I don't do husbands.”

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



THAT FANATIC GOES THROUGH LIFE WITH A CLOSED MIND AND THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: AN

Yesterday's Jumbles: THICK ROBOT HAIRDO CHEERY
Answer: What a man who works like a horse all day long probably wants to do at night—HIT THE HAY

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Legal matters surface out of nowhere and should be addressed immediately. Communication of all sorts is possible today. The expansive nature of the day can lead to many new contacts and activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A change will let you proceed with new plans and enterprises. The new future is in order with luck and good timing on your side.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A quiet time is passing, and romantic feelings have you excited. Relax and plan to spend time alone. Get lots of rest and relaxation.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Try to finish some of the many things you have started. Straighten out creative projects, and return books and records you have borrowed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Sit down and discuss money problems with your mate. Try not to bicker over trivial matters, and get down to the business at hand.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your communication skills are at their best, so contact others now. The phone may ring off the hook. Friendliness predominates.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) There is harmony on the home front. Proceed with business plans and other interests. Help someone with a project, and combine efforts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 18) If you want it, go get it. Pursue your own interests. Socialize tonight, and tune into family matters. Accept an invitation.

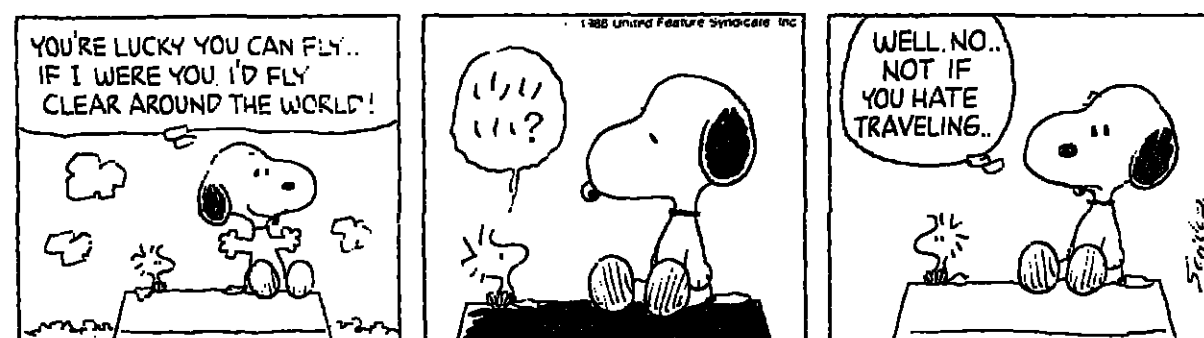
PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) Short trips here and there will keep you busy. Financial opportunities come up. Study them carefully, and use your numerous talents.

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

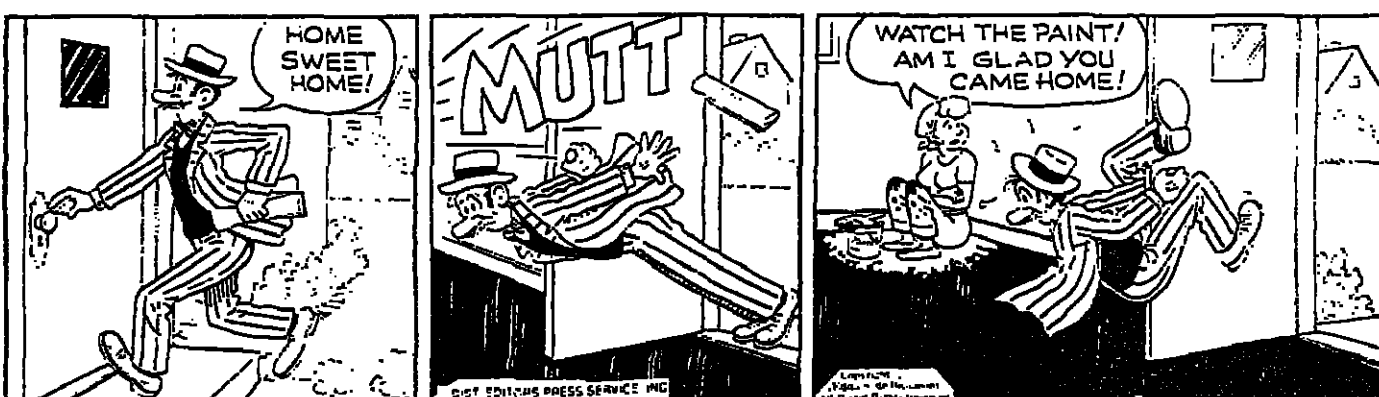
ACROSS
1 Certain bank accounts for short
4 Student gp.
8 Nasty remark
13 News section for short
15 Hindu music
16 Cut short
17 Kind of test
18 Surmounting
19 Pretty girl
20 Far-out fancy
23 Colour —, Ida
24 Mineo
25 Amphibian
28 Cromwell or North
33 Rome's river
37 Grin
38 Self drink
40 In a delusive way
43 Touch
44 Alas, island
45 Starts the poker game
46 Makes loud
48 Abba of far
50 Half a fly?
52 Came close
57 In a remarkable way
63 Band
64 Traveled
65 Unoccupied
66 Brownish gray
67 Olive genus
68 Bambi e.g.
69 Judges' circuits
70 Factual
71 Those giving TLC

DOWN
1 Overpopulate
2 Andros —
3 Delay
4 Certain worker
5 Pro —
6 Highly excited
7 Wall hanging
8 Lauren of films
9 Lie next to
10 Fr. menu word
11 Con — (music direction)
12 Br. gun
14 Word with shoppe
21 Below
22 Mother-in-law
23 Kind of Ruth
26 News notice
27 Beau —
29 “Yes, —” (S. Davis)
30 Electrical unit
31 Fr. magazine
32 Beams
33 Bunch
34 Arrow
35 Submachine gun
36 Morays
38 “Three men in —”
41 Cowboy item
42 City in Crete
47 Public storerooms
49 Toughen
51 Mistake
53 Saharan
54 Document
55 Terry or Drew
56 Fabric workers
57 Small suffix
58 Picture of a kind
59 See the sights
60 Cord
61 Charity
62 Brainstorm

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Yerevan calm as army pulls out

MOSCOW (R) — Most of the Soviet soldiers deployed in the Armenian capital of Yerevan last week after a new ethnic flareup were pulled out over the weekend, a spokesman for the official Novosti press agency said Monday.

Armoured vehicles posted around government buildings during demonstrations over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region had been pulled out Saturday, the spokesman told Reuters. "The situation is better today," he said by telephone from Yerevan. "Transport is working and some enterprises are back at work. It's a more or less normal working atmosphere."

In Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, a govern-

ment spokesman said children had gone back to school Monday but industry remained paralysed by strikes.

The latest round of tension over Nagorno-Karabakh erupted after an Armenian was killed and 49 people injured in gun and knife clashes in the Azerbaijani territory.

The Sept. 18 incident in a village near Stepanakert was followed by mass demonstrations in

Yerevan, where Armenians are supporting Nagorno-Karabakh's demand to secede from Azerbaijani rule and become part of Armenia.

The Novosti spokesman said huge demonstrations were held on Yerevan's Opera Square Saturday and Sunday evenings, with speakers demanding annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh and an emergency session of the Armenian Supreme Soviet (parliament).

The assembly voted in favour of annexation last June, but one month later the Kremlin ruled out any change in the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, where the ethnic Armenian majority

population has been ruled since 1923 by Azerbaijan.

Last Wednesday, as tensions continued to grow in the mountainous enclave, the Kremlin clamped an overnight curfew on Nagorno-Karabakh and declared a state of emergency.

Moscow Radio said Sunday that the curfew was being observed in Stepanakert and lawlessness had declined, although some residents had been found with petrol bombs.

It said 695 firearms had been turned in to the authorities voluntarily and nearly 100 seized during searches conducted by interior ministry and army troops sent to the region.

In Armenia, the radio said,

calls were continuing for more information on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. It quoted one Communist Party official as warning that rumours spreading due to a dearth of news could spark new disorders.

The Soviet media have carried virtually no reports on the situation in the enclave, and the news blackout continued Monday with no mention of Nagorno-Karabakh in the party newspaper Pravda — the only morning daily to appear Mondays.

Telephone links between Moscow and Yerevan remained difficult. It took two hours to get through to the Armenian foreign ministry Monday morning, and officials there refused to provide any information.

Haitians throng church to hail coup

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Thousands of worshippers burst into clapping, cheering and singing at a Roman Catholic Church Sunday, celebrating the Sept. 17 coup that toppled Lieutenant-General Henri Namphy.

"For that great victory of Sept. 17, we thank you, Lord," the Reverend Antonio Sele declared in an emotionally charged sermon before 3,000 people who jammed Saint Gerard Roman Catholic Church.

He praised the soldiers who ousted Namphy and installed a new military government under Lieutenant General Prosper Avril. Soldiers had cited a massacre Sept. 11 at Saint John Bosco Roman Catholic Church as a key reason for their revolt.

In that attack, thugs wielding guns, machetes and clubs stormed the church in a Port-au-Prince slum, killing 13 people and wounding more than 70.

"Through Saint John Bosco Church to us here today, we thank you, Lord, for your work through our soldiers to rescue us," said Sele, who offered a special mass. "This mass is to thank God... for all these soldiers who put their heads together to help us."

The soldier's revolt led to the exile of Namphy in the Dominican Republic, which shares the

Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti.

Namphy had led the military junta that assumed power after president-for-life Jean-Claude Duvalier fled to exile in 1986. Namphy consolidated power in a June coup that overthrew a civilian president elected last January.

After Sunday's mass, about 1,500 people, including 150 survivors of the church massacre, marched to a suburban site and where met by the Reverend Jean-Bertrand Aristide, leader of Saint John Bosco.

The crowd, many of whom had marched 12 kilometres, erupted in cheers upon seeing Aristide in his first public appearance since his escape during the massacre. "He's alive. He's alive," two women shouted.

Aristide, one of the most popular figures in Haiti, had repeatedly accused the Namphy government of condoning atrocities and of brutal repression.

Flanked by priests and nuns, Aristide waved and stood before the crowd for about 15 minutes. Speaking in a barely audible voice, he said, "God is with us. Don't lose courage. The cleansing up has just begun."

Earlier, about 2,000 people filled all seats and the aisle at Saint Gerard and 1,000 more thronged



Haiti's new president, Prosper Avril, swears in forces chief in Port-au-Prince earlier this week. Major General Herard Abraham, right, as armed

the church courtyard.

A chair draped with embroidered vestments had stood at the foot of the altar, symbolising Aristide, who was whisked away

from the church attack by parishioners who shielded him with their bodies.

"Jean-Bertrand Aristide is the one chosen by God for Haiti to

denounce injustice, to show us the truth," Sele said at the service, which began solemnly and exploded into singing and chanting.

Sad exit seen in store for Botha

JOHANNESBURG (R) — More isolated than ever, both within and outside the country, President P.W. Botha this week marks a decade as South Africa's supreme leader.

Spurned by many of his Afrikaner Volk (people) for straying from rigid apartheid segregation, Botha has failed to win a counterbalancing measure of credit from South Africa's black majority, moderate whites or world opinion.

Next month will provide definitive proof of whether Botha has achieved the goal he set for his leadership when he told South African whites they must "adapt or die."

Nationwide municipal elections Oct. 26 present the biggest challenge the ruling National Party has faced in 40 years when the white supremacist Conservative Party attempts to wrest control of local government.

Political commentators are predicting a setback for Botha, who observes a decade in power Wednesday, in his campaign for gradual reform of the apartheid policies that have made South Africa a pariah state.

While the right wing accuses him of betraying the Afrikaner tribe, more liberal whites — among them moderate Afrikaners — fulminate over his failure to be bolder in scrapping apartheid and bringing blacks into the political system.

"P.W. is a sad figure as he nears the end of the road," the anti-government Sunday Star said in a headline. English-language newspapers, which have been calling for him to step down, again asked whether Botha has the will to carry through reform.

Even the Afrikaans language press was less than fulsome in reviewing Botha's decade in office.

Rapport, the top-selling pro-government newspaper, raised doubts about his continued commitment to change. "After a decade, the question is... whether the National Party under the present leadership will continue undaunted on the (reformist) way it has set itself," its editorial said.

The cheeriest news for Botha on his 10th anniversary was an apparent breakthrough in regional foreign policy.

Talks now underway could end South Africa's involvement in the Angolan civil war and Pretoria's illegal, white minority rule in



P.W. Botha

Namibia.

South Africa is increasingly isolated in other areas.

Foreign bankers will not lend it money a falling gold price threatens its ability to pay its debts. Every week another foreign firm sells up and leaves as sanctions pressures mount, especially in the United States.

Almost every day urban guerrillas detonate a bomb. It took the imposition of a state of emergency and the detention without trial of about 30,000 people to stifle black protests in 1986.

Power expansion

The government has given itself new power to restrict its political opponents without informing them in person and may ban some media reporting of court evidence, lawyers said Sunday.

In a proclamation mailed to lawyers last week, the government said it will no longer have to find and tell people before placing restriction orders on them.

Instead it has only to publish their names in the official government gazette, a Johannesburg lawyer told Reuters.

In a separate announcement, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee told a legal conference Saturday that the government was studying proposals to ban media reporting of some court proceedings until the final verdict.

The purpose, he said, would be to prevent unfounded allegations made in court from damaging the reputations of defendants.

Restriction orders are used to place people under house arrest or curfew, to limit the work they do, their right to attend meetings or to talk to the press.

Old ruling party, opposition prepare for polls in Burma

BANGKOK (R) — The long-ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party changed its name Monday ahead of general elections and opposition sources said leading pro-democracy campaigners would field candidates.

Official Radio Rangoon said the BSPP, which ruled Burma for a quarter century of increasing poverty and political repression, had become the National Unity Party.

Rangoon-based Western diplomats have said the followers of BSPP founder Ne Win would try to regain their dominant role in Burma by winning elections promised soon by the country's new military rulers.

The BSPP was purportedly overthrown by a military coup Sept. 18, but diplomats say the army's action was only a way of suppressing widespread dissent and keeping power in the hands of the old guard.

Leading dissident figures General Tin Oo, Aung San Suu Kyi and Brigadier Aung Gyi have reversed their opposition to the polls and will contest them, sources close to them said.

A close associate of former Defence Minister would soon register with the military government's election commission and would field candidates for all 472 parliamentary seats.

"They are now preparing to follow the rules and regulations of the commission," he said in a telephone interview.

The source declined to give details of the opposition's move, saying he believed his telephone was

being tapped.

The opposition rejected a compromise election offer made the BSPP a week before its overthrow, saying the party was incapable of running honest polls.

Last week, the three opposition figures decided to reject army-backed elections also. Aung San Suu Kyi, 43-year-old daughter of independence hero Aung Gyi, at that time dismissed the idea of elections being held while people were being shot.

The military government has said over 200 "destructive elements" have been killed since it took over. Dissidents, doctors and diplomats put the figure at closer to 1,000 and say most of the dead were unarmed pro-democracy demonstrators.

The streets of Rangoon were quiet Monday, but soldiers were still shooting. Radio Rangoon reported they shot dead 19 more looters in the capital and other areas of Burma.

In Mandalay to the north many people were being arrested, a diplomat said. "Anyone who was associated prominently with the opposition seems to be targeted, doctors, prominent educators, editors of the various newspapers," he said.

The government earlier this month ordered civil servants and all military personnel to resign from the ruling party and repealed the law authorising it to receive financial support from the government.

But the party, with 2.5 million full and candidate members before the latest resignations, remains a potent force that maintains offices throughout the nation of 38 million people.

out the rest."

Soccer has so far attracted 528,000 fans in the 28 matches before the semifinals, making it the best attended sport of the games so far, but the yachting venues in the southern city of Pusan, for example, are almost deserted.

"Koreans don't like dangerous hobbies. For generations children were told not to do such things as mountain climbing or sailing," said Yoo Sung-Gil, a former yachting official.

The Seoul Olympics Organising Committee (SLOOC) estimates 74 per cent of tickets have been sold, but that figure is not reflected in attendances.

"A lot of businesses bought tickets for foreigners who didn't show up," said Cho Seok, assistant director for overseas ticket sales at SLOOC.

Another factor in the lack of

support is that South Koreans have very little leisure time. People work an average six days a week, taking about four days off per year. Many who do have free time have volunteered to work for SLOOC.

Some Seoul residents think Koreans are suffering from Olympic burn-out.

"After seven years of having the Olympics shoved down their throat, what do you expect?" said a foreign resident.

Western visitors are often perplexed by South Korean reactions to the games.

The opening ceremony, universally acknowledged as a huge success, was received with demure applause and serious expressions by the Koreans in the crowd, a great contrast to the behaviour of Americans and Europeans nearby who cheered wildly and punctuated each new surprise with ex-

Hirohito critical but remains stable

TOKYO (Agencies) — Emperor Hirohito, fighting what may be his last battle against fading health, was reported in stable condition Monday as thousands braved drenching rain to pray for his survival.

A bland announcement by palace officials Monday morning that the 87-year-old Hirohito's condition was stable failed to dispel a growing feeling in Japan that he is close to death.

Medical bulletins have been released at least twice a day by the officials but have declined to detail the exact nature of the emperor's illness.

These have shown Hirohito's temperature remains high while his blood pressure and pulse varied. The emperor has received nearly three litres of blood since this latest crisis began about a week ago.

At the palace, thousands of people braved incessant rain to offer their wishes for Hirohito's recovery. As of Sunday, 342,000 people had registered.

Among the well-wishers Monday were a group of Giant Sumo wrestlers led by the popular grand champion Chiyonofuji, who won the most recent Sumo tournament which concluded in Tokyo Sunday.

The emperor is an avid fan of the traditional Japanese sport and has attended the tournaments held in the capital. Palace officials said he was able to watch some of the tournament on television at the weekend.

The pace of life in this busy city is also slowing with major companies cancelling corporate functions such as the respected Asahi newspaper's 100th anniversary celebrations.

Street festivals and firework displays to mark the onset of autumn are being cancelled throughout Japan, including one of the biggest in the Ginza district, near the palace.

"Taking the emperor's illness into consideration, we have decided to call off our festival and other related celebrations including the Ginza parade," a city official said.

Government leaders have cancelled almost all their official work. Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and other ministers stayed at home over the weekend while Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno cancelled a visit to New York. Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa dropped out of the current International Monetary Fund meetings in Berlin.

Despite upbeat reports by government and palace officials, shares fell as the Tokyo stock exchange opened Monday due to mounting concern over the emperor's condition, traders said.

The emperor, who assumed the throne in 1926, has been under 24-hour care since he began hemorrhaging last Monday in the upper intestine or duodenum. In September 1987, doctors performed a bypass operation after an inflamed pancreas put pressure on his duodenum.

His condition took a turn for the worse Saturday when his fever soared to 39.2 Celsius. On Monday, his temperature was 36.7 Celsius.

Bush, Dukakis slug it out in bruising debate

WINSTON-SALEM (R) — George Bush and Michael Dukakis took the gloves off Sunday, hitting out at each other with accusations, sarcasm and ridicule in a bruising first presidential debate.

Dukakis decried the Iran-contra scandal and Bush portrayed his rival as a far-out liberal.

A generally smooth and collected Dukakis, the Democratic governor of Massachusetts, zeroed in on Reagan administration scandals in the first of two scheduled 90-minute campaign debates with Republican Vice President Bush, who looked a bit tense but also gave a good spirited account of himself.

The nationally televised debate was held in the red-brick Baptist chapel of Wake Forest University, where the two men stood a few feet apart on a blood-red carpet behind lecterns that looked like pulpits and hurled political fire and brimstone at one another.

"The vice president has a long resume (of public service), but that didn't stop him from endorsing the sale of arms to the (Iranian) Ayatollah," Dukakis said in one typical slam.

Bush avoided debate on what became the Reagan administration's worst scandal, but he depicted Dukakis scornfully as a big-taxing liberal, weak on national security issues, and thundered at one point:

"He is out there, out of the mainstream. My argument with the governor is, do we want this country to go that far left?" Afterwards, both camps claimed victory.

Although no official "winner" or "loser" is declared in any formal sense for these debates, an early first-impression poll of 500 viewers by ABC news broke 45-

36 per cent in favour of Dukakis — a possible reflection of the governor's ability to stay on the offensive in a low-key, gentlemanly manner.

President Reagan quickly weighed in to do what he could to help his loyal lieutenant and would-be successor, telephoning Bush to congratulate him right after the contest.

"You did a great job," the White House quoted Reagan as saying.

As expected, Dukakis's supporters saw things quite the reverse — and they were saying so quickly to the television cameras.

"It was a good victory for Dukakis because it showed him to be knowledgeable," said spokesman Mark Gearan.

The candidates responded to questions posed by a panel of journalists, giving the affair more the character of a side-by-side news conference than a real debate.

Bush came into the showdown leading by a few percentage points in most national polls. The key point in most surveys, however, is that many voters are still undecided and are only unenthusiastically committed to one or the other candidate.

This gave the debate great potential for swaying voters. Most analysts agreed the lesser-known Dukakis had more to gain from a good showing.

The 54-year-old governor clearly tried to seize the initiative by turning every possible response on any question to Reagan administration foreign policy embarrassments and the role of the vice president in them.

Such as the secret sales of arms to Iran in 1985-86 and longtime U.S. dealings with Panama's military leader Manuel Antonio Noriega.

COLUMN

Blind masseurs protest in Taipei

TAIPEI — Blind masseurs rapped police with their walking sticks as hundreds rallied to demand government action against their sighted colleagues. The 400 blind demonstrators, who were driven to the law-making legislative Yuan in Taipei by friends, tried to enter the building. But police blocked the blind protesters, and some hit the officers with their walking sticks. Police pushed them away. The protesters dispersed when lawmakers pledged to review their complaints. Kuo Kun-Hsiung, leader of the demonstration, complained that many massage parlours employ young girls as masseuses.

Crawford leaves famous opera

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Crawford, who is leaving the hit Broadway musical "The Phantom of the Opera" in October, says he needs a rest after two years with show. "It's like being an athlete," he said on the CBS television show "This Morning." "You have to have a rest period and then start up again. I mean I'm not finished with the Phantom. I want to come back and do it again." Crawford, who won a Tony Award for his portrayal of the Phantom, says the lavish musical has been an emotional experience.

Orient Express in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — Refurbished railroad cars from the legendary Orient Express arrived in Hong Kong Monday after a 15,000-kilometre odyssey from Paris with 60 passengers each of whom paid \$20,000 for the journey. The passengers were greeted at Hong Kong's Kowloon-Canton railway station by a police band and given bouquets of flowers by two contestants from the 1988 Miss Hong Kong pageant. Also on hand was the acting director of the railway, Ian McPherson. The passengers, mainly Japanese, were then whisked away in a bus to a hotel. Organisers said they were too tired to talk to reporters.

Shops for pampered pets

WALNUT CREEK, California (AP) — Specialty shops that cater to pampered pets are proliferating in California at a rapid pace, industry watchers say. Such stores are occupying more retail space, but far fewer operate outside California, said John M. McMillin, a food industry analyst with Prudential-Bache Securities in New York. "Only Californians would put their dogs on a diet," he said. "But I'm seeing more and more interest in people getting into this business." The stores provide such items as gourmet foods, handmade toys and European furniture. "People are definitely pampering their pets more. I find many of the people are more concerned with their animals' nutrition than their own," said Jan Edminster, owner of the pet shop.

'Super-sniffers' find radioactive canister

SHREVEPORT, Louisiana (AP) — An unemployed man with a pair of super-sniffing dogs earned a \$500 reward from the company that lost a container of weak radioactive material along a 40.2 kilometre stretch of highway. "It was found just outside Shreveport, north of the city, by an unemployed gentleman who asked to remain anonymous," Ron Evans, vice president and general manager of Trainer Surveys Incorporated, said Thursday. "He hit the streets with his two German shepherds, who sniffed it up 182.9 metres from his house."

Limousine shortage in Seoul

SEOUL (AP) — A flood of foreign dignitaries for the Olympics has created a limousine shortage in a nation that has few big cars. Officials said some 300 foreign dignitaries such as cabinet ministers and members of the International Olympic Committee are entitled to limousine service. But most are getting service below their status because there are not enough limousines available. "In normal circumstances, it could create a protocol problem, but we believe most of them understand the special problems at Olympic time," said Kim Kwon-Ho, a transportation official of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee. "So far, we have had no complaints," said Kim.

Home fans lukewarm to Olympic fever

By Sonya Hepinstall
Reuters

SEOUL — Where are the home fans at the Seoul Olympics?

Many stadiums are half-empty and sport enthusiasts with experience of previous Olympics are asking why.

"Tickets were scalped for many times the original price at Los Angeles. The venues were packed. Where are the Koreans?" said one foreign visitor.

There are many answers. For one, Koreans are not crazy about all sports.

"The Olympics are less a sports event than a turning point for the Korean people," said one fan. "There's no tradition of sport here. There's emphasis on certain sports — Taekwondo, Judo, Soccer — but they couldn't care less ab-

out the rest."

Soccer has so far attracted 528,000 fans in the 28 matches before the semifinals, making it the best attended sport of the games so far, but the yachting venues in the southern city of Pusan, for example, are almost deserted.

"Koreans don't like dangerous hobbies. For generations children were told not to do such things as mountain climbing or sailing," said Yoo Sung-Gil, a former yachting official.

The Seoul Olympics Organising Committee (SLOOC) estimates 74 per cent of tickets have been sold, but that figure is not reflected in attendances.

"A lot of businesses bought tickets for foreigners who didn't show up," said Cho Seok, assistant director for overseas ticket sales at SLOOC.

Another factor in the lack of

support is that South Koreans have very little leisure time. People work an average six days a week, taking about four days off per year. Many who do have free time have volunteered to work for SLOOC.

Some Seoul residents think Koreans are suffering from Olympic burn-out.

"After seven years of having the Olympics shoved down their throat, what do you expect?" said a foreign resident.

Western visitors are often perplexed by South Korean reactions to the games.

The opening ceremony, universally acknowledged as a huge success, was received with demure applause and serious expressions by the Koreans in the crowd, a great contrast to the behaviour of Americans and Europeans nearby who cheered wildly and punctuated each new surprise with ex-

clamations of delight.

"It was so solemn, it was no fun," complained one European viewer. "That's not what the opening ceremony in Barcelona in 1992 will be like, that's for sure."

"We are not a demonstrative people," said a Seoul city hall official. "We are not used to participating in celebrations. When a parade goes by we wave flags, stand back and nod our heads, saying yes, good show."

On the other hand, a brawl at an Olympic boxing match showed the emotions behind those cool exteriors can sometimes surface unexpectedly.

Home fans and five South Korean boxing officials invaded the ring Thursday to attack a referee who ruled against a local hero.

"It was stupid. It was childish behaviour," said one

Olympic organiser.

But it was not un-Korean. A few months before the games, one person was killed and more than 10 injured when baseball fans infuriated by the surprise loss of the home team started throwing bottles.

"Sometimes human beings cannot control their feelings," shrugged a local television announcer after the boxing brawl.

If visitors are sometimes mystified by their hosts, the feeling is mutual.

Some taxi drivers, for example, said they are fed up with the Olympic family.

"When they first came we wanted to be nice. We went out of our way to smile and try to speak English," said one taxi driver. "But foreigners accuse us of taking long routes and overcharging them. Now none of us wants to take foreigners."